

I would wish if the desire is to exclude all denominations as well as myself, or whether there is to be any special religious privilege granted in Baltimore exclusively to the members of any one Denomination. When I have received the reply of the Board, I shall put all responsibility from myself by forwarding, in the first place, a copy of the correspondence to His Excellency, the Governor, with whose sound mind and honorable feelings, I may very well leave the whole matter.

I am, Gentlemen, with the utmost consideration,
Your obedient Servant,
Wm. E. Wyatt

State Department
Annapolis Oct. 14th 1857.

From the
Governor of the Maryland Penitentiary
to the
Board of
Directors of the Maryland Penitentiary
Gentlemen:

I have, by this day's mail, received your official communication, through the Secretary of your Board, of the 10th inst. — It is the first time that I have ever received, in regard from any source a statement of the specific nature of this to the disagreement between your Board, and Rev. Mr. Wyatt; and it is the first time that I have ever been informed of the existence between them of the usage, which he claims to be a long conceded right, and to which you object, upon grounds of public policy in regard to the religious exercises upon week days of the convicts under your supervision. Mr. Wyatt is therefore, in error, in supposing that I have put any interpretation whatsoever upon the Charter of your Institution, as I had never examined it, in that connection until to day. I had the honor to form the acquaintance of Rev. Mr. Wyatt for the first time, on the day that I left Baltimore City, for the North, last July. He was introduced to me by the Hon. James M. Buchanan. I understood that the main design of his visit had reference to explanations relative to the case of Kelly, whom I had previously pardoned upon his recommendation.

Towards the close of our interview, he made a statement of a conversation held, some time before, between himself and Mr. Lucas, one of your Board; in which, as he alleged, Mr. Lucas had threatened to exclude him from the Penitentiary, and (as well as I remember) had intimated that thereafter none but Catholic Priests