

Baltimore Oct 23<sup>o</sup> 1851 ~

From the  
Rec<sup>d</sup> of  
Myall  
to  
the Gov<sup>r</sup>  
in relation  
to the  
Controversy  
between  
him  
& the Board  
of Directors  
of the Peni.  
to His Excellency  
E. Louis Love  
Governor of Maryland

I had the honor of receiving through the favor of the Hon. Mr Buchanan, a copy of a correspondence between yourself and the Board of Directors of the Penitentiary. And although your Excellency has I am persuaded, many and weighty engagements, you will not allow them to prevent a renewed attention to the subject, if it be necessary to an act of justice to a body of miserable men, and to an individual who has endeavored to serve them.

I wish first, however, to recall to your Excellency's mind, the circumstances and substance of the conversation which took place at the moment of your departure from this City. I felt that the opportunity was not propitious. Gentlemen were with you; you were informed that the Carriage was at the door; and I was scarcely surprised at finding that the exact nature of what was said, (part having occurred when I was in the Passage, and upon the steps, had escaped your recollection. My object in calling was not to speak of John Kelly, but to explain certain matters unfairly alluded to in several of the public papers, which strictures I suppose had arisen from displeasure at your independent action in the pardon of Kelly. The mention of his name reminds me to remark, that since the application to your Excellency in his behalf, I have resolved never again to interpose for the liberation of a Prisoner. Like men upon a sick, and as they suppose a dying bed, many of the convicts sincerely repent; they almost all believe that, if restored, they would lead better lives. But we all know how great a proportion of the sick who have been educated, reputable men, fail to realize the expectations of their Religious friends. And I cannot think that it is either rational or just for the public to expect more from the most wretched men in the community, or for me again to expose myself to the reproach of being inordinately credulous, because my compassion has been blinded by tears and groans.

The conversation with Mr Lucas also to which I then alluded, was not a threat to exclude me from the Penitentiary, and to admit none but Roman Catholic Priests it was far more offensive. It was an intimation that he and others were prepared to take the ground, that a Keeper should always be present during the interviews of the Prisoners with the Clergy, and when I asked, "if that would be tolerated by the Clergy of his own Church," he replied, that they would certainly be made

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