

Maryland Penitentiary,
Baltimore, January 5th 1852

To His Excellency, E. Louis Lawe,
Governor of Maryland

Dear Sir:

Reply
of the
Board
Directors
of the
Maryland
Penitentiary
in relation
to the con-
vey with
Rev. Dr.
Wyatt.

Acting under the in-
structions of the Board of Directors of this Institution, I now
proceed, according to the tenor of my note of the 23rd ultimo, to
take such notice of the Rev. Dr. Wyatt's two communications
to your Excellency, as their contents seem to require.

In the first place, I desire to say for the Board, that the Rev.
Dr. Wyatt has as much misapprehended the object and meaning of
the first communication which we had the honor to address to
him, as he seems to think that your Excellency misapprehended
the substance and intentment of the conversation between him-
self and you concerning his difficulties with Mr. Lucas, which
you did the Board the honor to communicate to them in your
letter of the 14th of October last. We certainly never intended
to convey the idea to the Reverend Doctor, that he was the only
Clergyman who had formed and attended his class in our Prison,
because we are free to admit that a Clergyman of the Catholic
and Lutheran denominations, had, to a limited extent, exercised the
same privilege. The idea we mean to convey was this: that the
Rev. Dr. Wyatt appeared to claim the right to make Clerical visits,
during the hours of labor, with or without the consent of the Board
of Directors, and that this had induced the Board, to believe that
he was clothed with some special legislative authority for the
exercise of his power. Not being able to find this legislative
authority themselves, the Directors thought it not unlikely that his
Reverence had possession of it and could produce it, and this is the
reason why the enquiries which he so much complains of, were
addressed to him. The Directors were prompted to make those enquiries
purely, as they stated, to enable them to give a proper answer to the ap-
plication of a Clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal Denomination,
for the privilege of making Clerical visits to the Prison, during
week days, to an equal extent with Dr. Wyatt, and who had been de-
nied this privilege by the Board, because of their fears that the
granting of it would result in occupying too much of the time of
the Prisoners, in obeying the calls of Clergymen. The application we
speak of, emanated from the Rev. John C. Orriek whose piety and
religious zeal can scarcely be called in question, and the amount
of it was, that Dr. Wyatt should receive no more privileges from
the Board than could be granted to him. It was not only an applica-
tion from the Rev. Mr. Orriek that we should withhold from Dr.
Wyatt the privilege that we had just refused him, but it was an

absolute