

Executive Department
June 21st 1862

Hon. Rich^d B. Carmichael,

My dear Sir:

Domestic affliction has prevented an earlier notice of your letter, and the award and accompanying papers, in the matter of the distribution of the reward, offered for the apprehension and conviction of the murderers of the Casden family. I have carefully read and considered the reasons, upon which your award was predicated together with the statements and opinions of opposing Counsel, and I take pleasure in congratulating you on the singular ability and judgment, with which you have discharged the difficult and unpleasant duty assigned you. In an ordinary case, the objection to the award, urged by Counsel, that the reward should have been distributed only to those who actually participated in the apprehension and conviction of the murderers, would have had much weight, & would, perhaps, have been conclusive. But, the Casden massacre was a case altogether sui generis. A whole neighborhood was aroused to active exertion, some caused the arrests, others procured testimony, others again were instrumental in the procurement of evidence by the arrest of the parties who were supposed to be implicated in, but were not convicted of the murder. It would be manifestly unjust to apply in this case the rule usually adopted. I entirely concur in the views expressed by you in this respect. As to the exact proportion of each man's deserts, it is impossible for me to judge, and would have been equally impossible for you, or any other Commissioner, to form a certain estimate. Your award is impartial, and as closely accurate as it was possible to make it. I have accordingly confirmed it.

I shall unhesitatingly pay Mr. Vickers* at the rate of payment usual for clerks to Commissioners in Chancery, as you suggest. Please notify him to make out his apes upon that basis; attach to it your certificate of its correctness, and

* erratum: it should be Spencer

with the
award
of the Hon.
R. B. Car-
michael,
and trans-
mitting to
him an
order for
\$100, as
the remuner-
ation for
his services
as Com-
missioner