

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 13th inst., in regard to the proclamation heretofore issued offering a reward for the apprehension of a certain negro Negron. The Governor cannot now withdraw that proclamation, especially since the Grand Jury have found a bill of indictment against Negron for an assault with an intent to commit a rape. Although the crime charged by the Grand Jury is less in degree than that named in the proclamation, it is nevertheless sufficiently serious to justify the offering of the reward. According to your former communication, upon which the proclamation was predicated, the girl upon whom the offence was attempted to be perpetrated was almost a child, and the crime was committed under circumstances of peculiar aggravation. The Governor will therefore allow the proclamation to take its course, as he cannot place any certain reliance in the expected voluntary surrender of Negron.

The Governor, however, thanks you for your prompt and considerate attention.

I am Very Respectfully
 Yrs. Obedt. Servt.
 John Randolph Purnell
 Secretary of State

Executive Department
 Annapolis Md.
 December 22nd 1853

Secy. State William A. Young Esq
 to W. A. Young
 Police Office at Richmond

Richmond Va Sir: By direction of the Governor, I hereby communicate to you his decision in reference to the reward offered for the apprehension of Martin M. Pyles. Your evidence is the naked fact of the arrest - to wit; the commitment, a certificate of the Mayor, and an affidavit certificate of the Jailor. The evidence produced by Mr. Scoviner is the affidavit of Col. Jas. Blakey, who testifies that you were sent for to make the arrest at his particular instance and solicitation, of Scoviner and made acquaintance with the whereabouts of Mr. Pyles. This affidavit is sustained by the affidavits of Joseph Stanley and Andrew M. Saraway. Mr. Langweir also testifies that Mr. Scoviner stated that he would remain at the Hotel with Mr. Sawyer to watch the accused, whilst he (Mr. Langweir)

giving the
 Gov's decision
 in case
 of arrest
 of M. Pyles
 Secretary
 draft of
 Proc. for
 his part
 of reward