

opportunity of speedily bringing that question up for adjudication, and that is my chief purpose in now addressing you. Will you therefore do me the favor to inform me whether it is true that the Government has interposed and commanded, as reported, the Marshal of the District to make no arrests in such cases; and if such is the case - and I sincerely trust it may not be - can it not be suspended until some such arrest is made and the question can be properly brought before a Judicial Tribunal - you will I think agree with me, that it is important this question should be promptly decided, in order that if there is no such law now applicable to the District, our people should have the opportunity of bringing it before Congress before their adjournment.

I am with great respect  
your Obedt. Servt.  
A. W. Bradford

U. S. Atty. Gen's Office  
May 10<sup>th</sup> 1862

Excellency A. W. Bradford  
Gov. of Maryland, at Annapolis

Sir:

Today I am honored with your letter of yesterday, informing me that large numbers of slaves owned in Maryland, are daily making their way into the District of Columbia from the neighboring Counties of your State, which you assure me is producing great anxiety and complaint in your Community, and that such anxiety is greatly increased within the last few days, by information received "that the Government has forbidden the Marshal of the District to execute any warrant for the arrest of these slaves, upon the ground, as it is suggested, that the fugitive slave law is not applicable to the District of Columbia"

In these distempered times I am not at all surprised to hear that slaves in the border States are using all available means to escape into free territory but the rumor you speak of, to the effect that the Government has ordered the Marshal of the District not to serve warrants in execution of the fugitive slave law, is to me new and unexpected.

I know nothing of any such order and do not believe that any such exists - The Act of Congress of August 2<sup>nd</sup> 1851, Chapter 37, charges this office with the general superintendence & direction of the District Attorney and Marshal, as to the manner of discharging their respective duties. And hence I suppose it very probable that if such an order had been given I would know it. I think none such was ever given. The rumor I suppose to be a mere fiction started by some evil disposed person, to stir up bad feeling