

at all events not until he has been convicted of such misbehaviour in some Court of law — such a Court is the only tribunal in Maryland where the misconduct of such officers is properly cognizable, and in this particular case the Criminal Court of Baltimore is the proper Court for that purpose —

Mr. Knox by application therefore to the Grand Jury of that Court can have all his complaints, whether against the Justice of the Peace in question, or against any one else who unlawfully assaulted him, properly investigated, and to that end can consult with the States Attorney Archibald Stirling Jr. Esq. who will give to him all the instruction and to the prosecution of his complaint all the attention, that he bestows upon the similar case of any citizen — and I have enclosed the statement of Mr. Knox to Mr. Stirling with whom Mr. K. can confer when he thinks proper.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. servt.

A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis June 2, 1862

Archibald Stirling Jr. Esq.

Dear Sir —

I have received from Frederick Bernal Esq. British Consul for Maryland, a letter complaining of an assault committed upon a Mr. Knox a British subject, as it is said, and also of the misconduct of Mr. Bliss a Justice of the Peace of Baltimore City in the arrest and examination of Knox upon a charge of rioting.

The occurrence took place as you will perceive on Sunday 24th the day of excitement in the City growing out of Knox's defeat — The chief object of the Consul's letter seems to be to have me investigate the truth of Knox's statement with the view to some action on my part against Bliss if these complaints are sustained — In my reply to Mr. Bernal I have explained to him that under our laws and Constitution I possess no power to remove such an officer as Justice of the Peace even for misbehaviour in office, at all events not until he is convicted of such misbehaviour in some Court of law — That the proper Court for such an investigation in this instance is the Criminal Court, and that upon application to its Grand Jury he can have all the redress open to any of our citizens, and can confer with you in like manner if he wishes, as the States officer for that purpose —

I have thought it best therefore to enclose to you Knox's statement and have so informed the Consul.

Yours very Resp. A. W. Bradford