

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Baltimore Sept. 27, 1862

Hon. E. M. Stanton,
Secy. of War

Sir:

In several of the Counties of this State the Enrolling officers are menaced with personal violence and are applying to me for protection. — Many are consequently declining to act and others acting in constant fear of the loss of life or property. In one case the Grain Stacks of the Enroller have been fired. It seems to me therefore to be essentially necessary that a small Military force should be placed at once at the disposal of the Provost Marshall of the State to enable him to afford the necessary support to the Enrolling officers. I do not think that the whole force required need exceed five hundred (500) men.

For several days past the necessity of some such provision has been obvious, and with the view of procuring it I sent for the Provost Marshal on the morning of the 30th Ulto. and after conferring with him in reference to the particular points where such a force was most needed, I addressed a letter to Major Genl. Wool calling his attention to the necessity of such a provision and respectfully requesting him to detail some troops for the purpose.

I enclose herewith a copy of that letter to which I have not yet received any reply.

The Provost Marshal reported to me in the course of the same day the particulars of his interview with Genl. Wool, a copy of which I also enclose.

Having failed to receive any response from Genl. Wool, and inferring from the tenor of his remarks to Mr. McPhail that he declines to accede to my request I submit the subject to your consideration.

It is with reluctance that I trouble you with a matter of this kind when I know that you are engrossed with subjects of far greater importance, but believing that the Enrollment cannot be completed in Maryland without such a Military assistance and that we owe it to the safety of the officers engaged in it to provide them such a support, I have no resort — the Commander of this Department declining to supply it — but to bring the subject to your attention.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your obt. Servt.
A. W. Bradford