

Rockville, November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1862

His Excellency A. W. Bradford  
Governor of Maryland.  
Sir,

It becomes my duty, as the States Attorney of this County, to inform you that John R. Miller Esq. a Constable of this County, has been this day arrested by the Military Authorities and carried a prisoner to Washington City. The offence charged, as stated by the officer who made the arrest, is that Miller had compelled certain contraband negroes who had been brought into the County and employed by one John G. Stone, himself a non resident of this State, to leave the County. Miller considered these negroes as coming within the provisions of Art. 66 Sec. 44 of the Code, and acted in the discharge of his duty as Constable, as required by Sec. 47 of the same Article.

It is for you to take such action in the matter as you, as the Chief Executive of this State may deem proper, to vindicate the laws of the State, the rights of the officers and citizens thereof. If these free negroes are to have the right of colonizing themselves in our State in violation of our laws to protect us against the evil effects of such a population, it should at least be so done, as not to involve the law officers of the State in punishment by the State law for permitting it, and by the Military law for not permitting it. You will excuse me for adding, that the Community look to you to make an effort to come to some understanding with the Federal Authorities at your earliest convenience, lest we become involved in further trouble from the same cause — I hope to hear this has safely reached you

Yours &amp;c

W. Veirs Bowie

The States Attorney for Montgomery County

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis Nov. 24<sup>th</sup> 1862

W. V. Bowie Esq.  
States' Atty. for Montgomery County  
Sir:

I have just received yours of 22<sup>nd</sup> Inst. calling my attention to the arrest by the Military Authorities at Washington of John R. Miller a Constable of Montgomery, for compelling certain free negroes from another State to leave the County, and thus being, as you suggest, in the discharge of his duty as prescribed by the 47<sup>th</sup> Sec. of the 66<sup>th</sup> Art. of the Maryland Code. — If such is the fact and he were thus simply discharging a duty imposed upon him by the laws of the State, your very justly remark that he should not be subject to punishment by the Military Authorities