

for such a proceeding — Agreeing with you in this view of the subject I was about addressing a communication to the Secretary of War, calling his attention to our State Code and asking the release of the Constable, when on a second reading of your letter it occurred to me that the case as stated by you would seem to come within the exception provided for in the next succeeding section of the Article quoted (Sec. 48), which expressly declares that "the preceding sections (are) not to apply to any servant of a white person coming to or passing through this state by land or water, if such servant remains with his master while here and leaves the state with him."

You state that the negroes in question were "brought into the County and employed by one John G. Stone" — Now it seems to me that if these negroes were in Montgomery County with Stone as their employer, were brought with him there as his servants, they were not by reason of the provision quoted, subject to the penalties of the previous sections, and could only be required to leave the State when Stone himself leaves; — If under such circumstances arrested by the Constable and compelled to leave the State, he cannot I think justify himself under the authority of the 47th section.

As therefore, before making any representation of this case to the Government I desire to have a perfect understanding of the facts of it, I have thought it better to submit this view of it to your attention and await such further information or suggestions as you may be able to present.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. servt.

A. W. Bradford

Rockville November 27th 1862

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

Yours of the 24th Inst. making enquiries into the facts connected with Millers arrest is at hand. Stone who employed the negroes in question, did not bring them here as his servants, nor was he passing through the State with them as his servants, nor did they remain with him as their master, or leave the state with him. He sent them here to cut wood at a stipulated price per cord, and did not come and remain with them as their Superintendent, and as such responsible to the public for their correct deportment, which is the evident purpose of the exception in the act to which you refer, as also to protect mere travelers through our territory with such servants from annoyance on that account — an act of good faith and courtesy which has not been reciprocated to us by other states, but one of which we may well be proud on our part.