

But suppose these negroes were entitled to protection under this exception; their remedy is plain and simple, before our legal tribunals which have never shut their doors to the injured. I am sure you must concur with me, that the Military under our Government is, and of right ought to be, subservient, not superior to the Civil Law; and as the Civil tribunals had not called the Military Authorities to their aid, it seems to be a case of great hardship upon an officer of this State, to be thrown into prison by the Military Authorities to redress a private grievance, and in view of the excited state of public feelings, one well calculated to do injustice to the Federal Government, and endanger the public peace of our own State. I am sure you will take prompt action in the case.

Yours be

W. Veirs Poole

The States Attorney for Montgomery County

West River December 5th 1862

Mon. A. W. Bradford

Dear Sir:

I am requested on behalf of a Committee of Citizens to ask you what day of the week after next it will suit your convenience to see them, as they wish to confer with you in regard to a matter of particular interest to them, and the Community in which they live

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Servt
A. C. Gibbs

State of Maryland

Executive Department

Annapolis Decem. 17th 1862

A. C. Gibbs Esq.

Sir:

I have reflected attentively upon the subject of our conversation of yesterday and consulted with several prominent Citizens and Slave holders, and the result is a conviction that any public proclamation on my part at this time might do mischief, and that the object so far as your neighborhood is concerned - (and I have received no similar application from any other) may be accomplished by the letter to you which accompanies this - It is not necessary to dwell upon all the considerations which would seem to render a proclamation by me unadvisable, but I may mention one or two - In the first place if the slaves at present believe that they are by law free on the first of January, it is doubtful whether any