

existed, because I could not well conceive how a proclamation so plain in its terms could be misunderstood by any.

Reflecting however upon the general want of correct information among the colored population of the state, of which the mischievous might take advantage by intentional misrepresentations, I would if possible disabuse their minds upon the subject and if any thing I can say can explain or make the matter plainer to their comprehension I take this method of making that explanation.

I would therefore warn them and all others concerned that the President in the Proclamation referred to has made no attempt to disturb the relations at present subsisting between the Master and Slave in this state. The freedom which in that proclamation he proposes to offer after the first day of January next, is expressly and exclusively confined to the Slaves in those states which are now in open rebellion against the Government and has nothing to do with the Slaves in Maryland; Any other construction of the Presidents act would conflict as much with his purpose, as it might with the future fate and comfort of the slaves themselves—

I hope therefore they may be made to understand the true state of the case, and it might contribute to their proper understanding of the subject if Ministers of the Gospel who have charge of their congregations would read to them this letter and otherwise take all proper opportunities to explain to them the true character and extent of the proclamation in question.

I am with great respect  
Your obtt. servt.

A. W. Bradford  
Gov. of Md.

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis December 22<sup>d</sup> 1862

Brig Genl. Shriver  
Commandg. Camp of Rendezvous &c  
General:

It is represented to me that some misunderstanding seems to exist in reference to the transfer of Drafted men and substitutes from your Camp to the different Volunteer Regiments— first it is supposed that the instructions to you refer only to the substitutes and not to the Drafted men, and secondly that it only applies to those who are willing to volunteer for three years— Both these interpretations of my instructions are erroneous: Drafted men as well as substitutes are meant to be included, and those who do not volunteer for three years are to be assigned for nine months to such of the