

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> 1853

To William M. Smith Esq.  
Inspector & Gauger of Liquors &c  
Sir:

A communication has been addressed to me by some of the most respectable firms in the City of Baltimore engaged in business as "Distillers and Receivers of Whiskey" complaining of the conduct of the Gaugers and Inspectors of Liquor in the discharge of their duty. The complaints assert that these officers "totally ignore all Law in regard to their duty and are simply governed by the wish and will of the Buyer" — My inquiries as to the particular provisions of the State Law said to be disregarded by its officers give me to understand that it is the non-observance of the 365<sup>th</sup> Sec. of the 4<sup>th</sup> Art. of the Code of Public Local Laws that is chiefly complained of — This Section, with the apparent purpose of preserving a uniformity in the scale by which the proof of Liquors is tested, has made it the duty of the Inspectors to provide themselves with Hydrometers corresponding to those used by the Government of the United States, and to change these Instruments when necessary to make them so conform to the Government Standard —

It is not necessary for me to point out the advantages of such a uniformity, not only because they are very obvious, but whether obvious or not, whether beneficial or otherwise, such is the Law expressly governing the course of the Inspectors, and whatever may be its effect, that Law must be observed by them — It is not for the Buyer nor the Seller nor even both concurring to alter this provision or substitute any other Instrument or test than the one used by the United States which our Law adopts and expressly requires you to use —

This explanation is I am sure, all that is necessary to direct you in your future proceedings — The Hydrometer used at this time by the Government, is I presume well known to you and the trade, and that Instrument is the only one that can be lawfully used by the Inspectors and Gaugers of Liquor in this State

Yours very Respy  
A. W. Bradford

(A copy of the above sent to each of the other Gaugers.)

Leonard Town Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> 1853

His Excellency A. W. Bradford  
Gov. of Md.

Dear Sir:

In these times when our rights are invaded and Military force is used to rob us, Individuals have not the power, if the will, for self protection — therefore we are compelled