

to call on your Excellency to use the power of the State to protect and defend the laws which you are sworn to support. There might be some difficulty if the Constitution of the State of Maryland with its laws came in conflict with the Constitution and laws of the Federal Government — In that event your individuals ^{of opinion} in regard to States rights might govern you. But the difficulty to which I now ask your attention and assistance arises from the fact of the location of a Military Hospital amongst us which was established for that purpose, but has become the receptacle of runaway negroes. Not only are they taken within the Military lines but are protected by the Military in the hands of individuals belonging to the Hospital outside of those lines — I understand that the Col. Commanding states that until a runaway negro registers his name, he is free to leave if he chooses — If he does not choose to leave, his owner cannot force him — If his name is registered he in fact becomes the property of the General Government, because after such registering the Col. has no authority, and the party is referred to the Secretary of War.

According to the law of Maryland a party who harbours a runaway negro is subject to an Indictment and if found guilty consigned to the Penitentiary.

A lady of this County living near Point Look out has a runaway girl in the hands of one of the officers of the Point outside of the lines, but protected by the Military of the Post — The proper remedy would be a warrant directed to the Sheriff of the County to arrest this man, who holds this runaway — If the Sheriff is resisted, he can summon a posse from the whole County who can arrest him —

The question is, will the Governor of Maryland protect the people of the County by the Militia of the State should the law be enforced by the Sheriff?

I cannot understand the Government if by issuing the proclamation of the 1st of January the President intended to act in good faith to the people excluded by said proclamation — We are excluded and worst served — worst served, because the proclamation bears upon its face protection to us, and comes into our midst in Peace and cheats us of our property — In the South where the proclamation is to take effect, the ~~the~~ officers who are to carry it out, do not feel comfortable in going —

Federal usurpation has only been where it feels the nerve of the Governor of the State to be weak. The Fortresses of New York and Boston were opened because it came to the knowledge of the President that the Governor elect and the people of New York would attend to this little matter — This must be a fact for from the News papers lately I am to understand that the prisoners who were in these fortresses are considered as guilty as they were the day they were consigned there —

I am confident that when these facts are presented to your Excellency, as Governor you will maintain the laws and dignity of your State and protect the property of those Citizens over whom you rule —

I have written to the Secretary of War mentioned.