

the name of the lady who lost the servant and that of the servant herself - whom I understand has by a strange law changed ownership to the Government by the singular fact of registering her name -

The people of the County can and will protect themselves against Point Look out, if the Governor will, maintain their rights by the power of the State -

Respectfully Yours &c  
G. Fred. Maddox

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis January 13<sup>th</sup> 1863

G. F. Maddox Esq

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter of 9<sup>th</sup> Inst. in which referring to the facilities furnished by the Military Hospital at Point Look out for the escape of slaves in that neighborhood and to the protection afforded them by the officers of that Post, and adverting to the law of Maryland by which a person harboring a runaway slave is subject on conviction to confinement in the Penitentiary - you proceed to enquire "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," and again you say "the people of the County can and will protect themselves against Point Look out if the Governor will maintain their rights by the power of the State."

Now it must be obvious Sir, that under ordinary circumstances there would be no necessity to ask these questions and that the laws of the State would ordinarily be enforced by all the power at the Command of the State. - But it must be equally obvious - though the tenor of your letter would seem to ignore the fact - that the circumstances now surrounding us are of a very extraordinary character, and such as must practically modify in many respects the usual course of judicial proceedings, whilst they would render utterly impracticable the particular Executive assistance you seem to contemplate - A single word explains this change of circumstances - We are in a state of War, - a war of such a character and extent as Modern times have never witnessed, and which like all other wars carries in its train a fearful list of calamities, surrounds us with Camps and Hospitals and fortifications, and compels the individual especially in the neighborhood of such posts - for the sake of great Public exigencies - to submit frequently to exactions which at other times the laws of the land would promptly interfere to prevent.

A short time since we enjoyed to an extent equalled by no people upon the Earth protection to person and property under a Constitution and laws as equal and as just