

He has not only arbitrarily interfered with Civil police arrangements provided by the County Authorities for the suppression of crime and disorder, and openly invited slaves in the presence of their owners to leave their service, but as represented in one at least of these affidavits has carried off in a steamer large numbers of such slaves, and some of them by force and in defiance of their own wishes.

That you may have a clearer knowledge of his proceedings I have caused copies to be made of some of these affidavits and herewith enclose them —

The Police force which Col. Swain has interfered to prohibit as shown by the affidavit of Judge Brent, is as represented to me, a mere Constabulary force of some seventeen members and such as has always been customary in the County, especially about the time of the Christmas Holidays and necessary to prevent stealing and repress disorder among the slave population — And were it even employed exclusively for the purpose of keeping the slaves at home and preventing their entrance into the Army lines, there is as it seems to me, no more acceptable service it could render than by this means to avoid the annoyance which their presence there must necessarily occasion as well to the Government as their owners —

In calling your attention to the conduct of Col. Swain in openly inviting slaves to abscond, and in forcibly abducting them, it is unnecessary I am sure, for me to point out the wide difference that exists between such conduct, and a mere refusal to interfere in delivering them up to their owners, as prohibited by the Army regulations recently established by Congress — Whilst our citizens may acquiesce in the latter as a Military regulation and necessity which they cannot avoid, they cannot fail to regard the former as a flagrant violation of their rights which calls for redress — I feel assured General that in their behalf I shall not claim this redress at your hands in vain — and that either by the prompt countermand of the Authority which Col. Swain has assumed to exercise, or better still by his immediate removal from that command, these causes of complaint will be removed, and the Government relieved of the odium which it must necessarily to some extent share from such illegal and unauthorized proceedings on the part of any of its officers

I have the honor to be
Very Resp^y. Your obed^t. Serv^t.
A. W. Bradford

Great Mills St. Marys County Jan^y. 15th. 1863
To His Excellency Gov. Bradford

Sir:

On the 30th. December 1862 a man of mine (a carpenter) robbed me and has taken refuge at Point Lookout