

State of Maryland  
 Executive Department  
 Annapolis Feb 5<sup>th</sup> 1863

James Harmandis Esq.

Sir:

Your letter of 24<sup>th</sup> Octo. reached me only on 31<sup>st</sup>. It is unnecessary for me, I hope, to express my unqualified condemnation of the proceedings of which you complain on the part of a detachment of Capt. Blayton's Cavalry Company in taking violently and against your remonstrance 15 Bushels of Oats from your granary.

I am surprised however that Capt. Blayton should have so entirely mistaken the character of the State's connection with his Command, as to represent it as "entirely a State affair the expenses of which were to be paid by funds provided by the State" — His Company, it is true ~~was~~ detailed by the War Department to aid in enforcing the draft in this State, that being a Government and not a State affair — and for that purpose were ordered to report to me. This however was only that I should indicate where they could be most serviceably employed in accomplishing the object for which they were detailed; And although I assigned them to the Rendezvous of drafted men near Baltimore, where they have been for the last two months employed in guarding that Camp and hunting up deserters from it, yet their Military government and especially their supplies of subsistence and forage have been exclusively under the control of the usual Military Authorities, entirely unconnected with the State which has not paid nor is expected by the Government to pay for their supplies or any other of their expenses which are all furnished by the Quarter Master of the Department as though they were employed in any other Government service — Even this qualified connection between the State and this Command was terminated several days before the receipt of your letter; for finding that such a force was not adapted to the duty in which they had been engaged and that their employment was likely to lead to occasional collisions with the Citizens, I wrote to Genl. Schenck the Commander of this Department on the 24<sup>th</sup> Octo. requesting him to assign the Company to some other duty.

Notwithstanding however that the State has never sustained to this Company the relation you seem to suppose, and that even its qualified connection with it has terminated I have with pleasure done what I could towards a reparation of the injuries of which you complain.

I have therefore written to Capt. Blayton expressing my decided disapproval of the proceedings of his men, and my opinion that he ought to cause them to be promptly and properly punished.

I have also requested him to report at once to the Quarter Master of this Military Department the circumstances of the taking of your grain with the view to an immediate settlement therefor, and to ensure prompt attention to the matter have written to the