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to clear himself of the charge, and that his Superior officer has promptly required an explanation from him, will have a salutary effect in reminding him that there is no Act of Congress or Army regulation which justified him in enticing away Slaves or advising their escape.

I am therefore in hopes that although the practices complained of, may not have been instantly checked, the course which their investigation has taken will have the effect of putting an end to them ultimately.

Yours very Respectfully  
A. W. Bradford

For Copy of Col. Swain's report Genl. Schenck referred to in the above, see page 393

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis Feby 18<sup>th</sup> /63

Major Genl. R. C. Schenck  
Comdg. Middle Department &c.  
General:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Report of Col. Swain transmitted by you in reference to Conduct imputed to him by affidavits of several Citizens of Charles County, in encouraging the escape of Slaves from that County: Col. Swain denies, I find, having acted in the manner charged and supports his denial by the statements of two of his subordinate officers.

Now although the statements of these Gentlemen looking to their negative quality in not hearing or observing the declarations & acts imputed to Col. Swain in the affidavits aforesaid, are hardly sufficient to overthrow such sworn statements, although they expressly denounce them as false, I am nevertheless glad that Col. Swain denies the charges made, and I take the occasion to thank you for your prompt attention to the subject, as I am not without hopes it will have a salutary effect in reminding the Military Commanders in your Department, that there is no "additional Article of War" which warrants them in enticing away Slaves or encouraging their escape.

I feel however still convinced that the relieving of Col. Swain from any Command in that part of your Department is the readiest method of avoiding agitation upon this troublesome subject.

The concluding portion of his report is calculated, I think to attract attention, and appears to point to a practice which I scarcely believe can be sanctioned by the Government — It is the reference he makes to the carrying off of Slaves from the State & turning them loose in Washington — The defence he interposes admits in effect that such has been the practice, when he says that in so doing the negroes have only had "the same favors granted to them as have been sought and enjoyed by white Citizens of Maryland —

Now to say nothing of the peculiar views of Col. Swain which seem to forbid his "making any distinction" in such cases it seems to me that Government transports employed in the