

State of Maryland  
Executive Department  
Annapolis Feby 17<sup>th</sup> 1863

Major Genl. R. W. Schenck  
Commdy. Middle Dept. &c  
General:

I have just received an application in reference to three negroes said to be now detained at Point Look-out with which I am again compelled to trouble you —

The application comes from the States Attorney for Saint Marys County and encloses official copies of Presentments found by the Grand Jury of that County at the last November Term against negroes Thomas Slater, Aloysius Meason, and Alexis Joyer charging them with the crime of Larceny.

I enclose to you these Presentments and the letter of the States Attorney — The latter states as you will perceive that the parties accused are at Point Look out and that the Sheriff states he has not the means of executing a warrant there, and therefore requests me to make a requisition on the proper Authorities for the bodies of the parties named.

I am not aware of any Act of Congress or order of the Government that forbids the arrest of criminals of this description who may take refuge within the lines of the Army; and whilst the request here preferred is in itself manifestly just, nothing will contribute more to reconcile our people to the consequences of the Act of Congress of 13<sup>th</sup> March last than a ready compliance on the part of the Government with the laws of the State in all cases where not in conflict with that Act or any other legislation of the United States.

Although I am not perhaps strictly authorized to make what may be technically termed a Requisition as the States Attorney seems to imply, yet the papers here furnished would be quite sufficient to authorize under the Act of Congress such a proceeding on my part, had these accused parties taken refuge in another State — And it would certainly seem obviously unjust that the facilities for the arrest of fugitive criminals should be less effective in the State where the offence was committed, than in any other to which they may flee — The object may be accomplished I think, by your endorsement upon each of these Presentments of an order to the Commander of the Post at Point Look out to deliver these accused parties if within his lines, to the Sheriff of Saint Marys County, or at all events that he permit said Sheriff to come within these lines and search for them; and without concealing them or interposing any obstacle to such search, allow the Sheriff upon proper proof of identity to arrest the accused and take them into custody.

I hope General that you will have no difficulty in complying with this request and that you will send me back the papers at your earliest convenience with such an order endorsed on the presentments

I have the honor to be  
Very Respy. Your obtt. servt.

A. W. Bradford