

such a preliminary proceeding now necessary, and it would in all probability only delay what may as well be done without it.

A few days since Brig. Genl. Lockwood called on me and informed me that he is now in Command at Point Look-out which station is now chiefly garrisoned by Maryland troops— On mentioning to Genl. Lockwood that there were some cases where parties charged on oath with Criminal offences had taken refuge, as was supposed, within the lines of that Station, and in which cases I supposed Genl. Schenck would have no difficulty in allowing their arrest, he replied that whenever parties so charged were within his lines, he should feel authorized to permit their arrest without any Special order from his Superior officer.

By waiting therefore upon Genl. Lockwood (whose Head Quarters are at Point Look-out) with these papers, he will I have no doubt, authorize the service of the process and the delivery of the party charged upon proof of his identity.

I therefore return herewith said affidavit and warrant that you may thus use them

Yours very Respectfully
A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis March 2nd 1863

James S. Downs Esq
States Atty &c.

Sir:

Your letter enclosing copies of two presentments against three negroes in St. Marys County charged with Slavery and stating that these negroes were supposed to be within the Army lines at Point Look-out was duly received: And in accordance with your request I addressed a letter to Genl. Schenck the Commander of this Department on the 17th Ult. enclosing your letter and the Presentments and requesting his order to authorize the arrest and delivery of the parties charged if found at that Post— I have been expecting daily to hear from Genl. Schenck on the subject, but it may be that he considers the recent change of Commanders at Point Look-out as superseding the necessity for any such express authority on his part— I received from Genl. Schenck a few days since a letter advising me that Brig. Genl. Lockwood had been placed in Command of all the region of Country between the Patuxent and the Potomac Rivers— About the same time I received a visit from Genl. Lockwood who stated the same fact and informed me that his Head Quarters were at Point Look-out, and on my adverting to the circumstance of the negroes referred to, and that I supposed that Genl. Schenck would have no difficulty in permitting the arrest of parties thus charged, he replied that under such circumstances he should feel authorized to allow process to be served on such parties without any express order to that effect from his Superior officer.