

prevent it; as your Father was appointed during the life of the late Mr. Gilmer and Mr. Lucas with my concurrence. I much regret what has been done"

The undersigned persuades himself that your Excellency could not have been aware of the facts which he respectfully states, and he urgently requests that the keys which were taken from the keeper under a threat of violence and in the presence of a posse of the police, may be restored to his Father. We need not say how grateful he will be for an act of kindness and justice which many besides himself will duly appreciate.

Your Excellency's humble servant  
A. L. Heitzelberger J. J.

State of Maryland  
Executive Department

Annapolis March 9<sup>th</sup> 1863

Rev. A. L. Heitzelberger

Sir:

I have received your letter of 6<sup>th</sup> Inst. referring to an alleged injustice done your Father by his recent removal under the authority of the Mayor of Baltimore City from the office of Keeper of the Washington Monument in that City—

You have, it seems, been informed that the removal was made at my request; this is entirely a mistake and requires that I should explain what connection I had with it.

Some time last Fall some citizens of Baltimore called my attention to the fact that the National Flag was not displayed from the Washington Monument and intimated that the keeper thereof was unwilling to do so, and considering that the Monument being erected by the State was properly under State Control requested that I would take measures to cause the flag to be displayed or remove the keeper if he declined doing so— I concurred in the propriety of the suggestion, and promised to examine the subject and see what authority had been vested in me in reference to it. It was stated to me at the same time that the attention of the City Authorities had been called to the matter, but that they considered themselves without any power in the premises— or could not find where it was conferred.

Upon looking, as I promised to do into our State Legislation on the subject I discovered that the entire Control of the Monument was vested by Act of Assembly in the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore— and I caused that Act to be brought to the Mayors attention—

This was some four months ago; soon afterwards the Flag was displayed daily from the Monument, and I supposed the whole matter had been arranged, never having since any communication with the Mayor or any one else on the subject, and hearing nothing further of the purpose to remove the keeper until I saw his removal stated in the public Papers— It must be obvious to you, that it would have been entirely unbecoming and out of place in me to make any