

The statements of Nally so far as they relate to myself are false in every particular, (see accompanying statements of Major Kenyon and Surgeon Kidder) I was not present at the loading of the boat, and the only order I gave in connection with negroes, was to direct one to be put ashore.

I trust I shall not be deemed obtrusive, if I add, that my Command and the Government which it represents have been repeatedly outraged by the disloyal expressions of persons who live in the immediate neighborhood of the Camp — That persons professing to be men of character and position have not hesitated to tamper with privates, — advising them to desert from the service, offering to buy Government property, inducing them to steal negroes out of the Camp, who were held there as informants and witnesses against persons engaged in Contraband trade.

I can see nothing that demands for men who are guilty of such practice, any consideration beyond a strict compliance with my orders. When they have applied to me to return negroes whom they alleged to be their slaves, I have answered as I felt, that I was not in the service to catch negroes and I would not; that both my conscience and my duty demanded that I should obey the "Additional Article of War" published in Order 27 June of 1862.

I have not invited negroes to run away nor have I repulsed them from my Camp. All the negroes I have seen directed to be sent to Washington, were those who gave information and were evidences against those engaged in illicit trade, and those engaged under the direction of traders in forwarding goods. If others have obtained passage to Washington with my permission they have had the same favors granted to them, as have been sought and enjoyed by white citizens of Maryland. I know of no regulation that requires me to make any distinction and certainly none has been made. When they have reached Washington, each white or black, has gone where they pleased, and without hindrance or direction from me.

I am Sir very Respectfully
Your obtc. Servt.

James B. Swain
Col. Scotts 900 U. S. Vol. Cavalry
Commanding

The above communication was referred by Genl. Schenck to the Governor, and may be found in the letter file, enclosing copies of statements of Major Kenyon and Surgeon Kidder therein referred to.