

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis March 26th 1863

Samuel Dorsett Esq.

Dear Sir:

In your interview with me yesterday I promised you to take into consideration the suggestion you then made of writing a letter to the Sheriff by calling his attention to the 9th Sec. of the 66th Art. of the Code, authorizing a reward for the arrest of runaway negroes, with the view of encouraging greater vigilance on his part in intercepting the negroes that you feared would be likely to abscond about the Easter Holidays.

I explained to you that I did not feel authorized to organize any Special Police for such a purpose nor to offer any additional rewards to that allowed by the Code; and to address any letter to the Sheriff upon the subject without some special provision, appears to me, as I reflect upon it, as utterly without any practical import—

There is nothing in the Section referred to that connects the Sheriff particularly with such arrests, which on the contrary as expressly provided in a preceding section may be made by any one— The Sheriff might very naturally express some surprise at my addressing him especially on such a subject.

We might with reason say— the Governor has not offered any additional reward nor authorized me to engage any special police force, — why then should he particularly address me, merely calling my attention to a matter not specially connected with my duties, and to a law with which I am familiar, which has long been the law of the State, and has no particular reference to me.

It seems to me therefore that whilst such a proceeding on my part might be entirely harmless, it would nevertheless be so utterly nugatory as to be more likely to excite ridicule than to accomplish the object you desire.

These are briefly the views which suggest themselves to me, and in which on a little reflection I am inclined to think you will concur—

I am very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.

A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis April 25th 1863

Brig. Genl. W. W. Lockwood

Comdg. at Point Look-out &c

General:

In the conversation I had with you about a week ago, you adverted to an Act of Congress approved 17th July 1862 as imposing upon you an embarrassing duty in requiring