

Your Excellency will excuse me for thus particularly quoting these two Acts of Congress: I do so because I can not believe that Genl. Martindale or any other officer under your Excellency's authority would interfere to arrest the due process of the law, or obstruct the lawful rights of a loyal citizen of Maryland endeavoring merely to have a judicial settlement of these rights by the proper authorities of the District, unless he felt himself constrained to that course by a positive statutory provision — As these are the only acts that I am aware of bearing upon the subject, I have brought them to your attention, confident that if you concur with me in their construction, you will cause such instructions to be given to Genl. Martindale, as shall prevent any obstruction on his part to the just settlement of all such claims by the legal Tribunal of the District.

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's obedt. servt.
A. W. Bradford

Blenheim Farm, near Havre De Grace, Md.
July 17th 1863

To His Excellency A. W. Bradford,
Governor of Maryland

Dear Sir:

I have not the pleasure of your acquaintance though I knew your Father well as a friend — I wish to state to you that on Thursday the 9th Inst. 8 or 10 men came out to my dwelling house on this farm and represented themselves as cavalry from Havre De Grace and belonging to the United States Army — They entered my house without ceremony & entered every out building on the premises looking for what they could forcibly take, without showing any authority for their conduct — I was absent — They took all the oats I had except about 4 bushels and all the Timothy hay I had to feed my stock during my harvest — compelled my team to haul it to Havre De Grace — My Daughter being at home, asked for a receipt or any order on the proper authority for pay, which they declined, only leaving their Major's name (Hounsfield) — I want to know whether you can recognize such conduct — I can not say positively they belonged to the U. S. Army; because I conceive the officers of the United States Army are Gentlemen and would not act in such a manner without giving satisfaction — (But since writing the foregoing I am creditably informed they are in the U. S. Service and left Havre De Grace early next morning after committing the outrage upon me) but I did ~~not~~ believe when they were here they were an armed Banditti — robbing our neighbors of their horses and produce under the pretended sanction of the U. S. Administration — If I had been at home the affair may have terminated differently — I am an old man, upwards of 73 years, and was in camp in the War of 1812-15 and at the defence of Baltimore; and I conceive I know