

organization of the Regiment is limited, if he is not allowed now to receive these men, the prospect of such a Regiment is probably at an end — Whereas by allowing these men to his command the Regiment could be at once completely organized and ready for service,

Whatever may be the views of the Government in regard to the policy of such enlistments, and however it may hereafter take a different course from that indicated in the telegram of 2nd Inst. — such considerations can not, as you perceive, affect the claim I now desire to make in behalf of this Regiment — For unless that order is revoked, and all enlistments under it are annulled, these men, as it seems to me, now properly belong to the Maryland Regiment, and trusting that you will cause such orders to be passed as will ensure this result

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland

Executive Department

Annapolis August 24th 1863

His Excellency Abraham Lincoln
President U. States,

Dear Sir:

I have received a communication signed by several respectable citizens of St. Marys County in this State, which I feel bound to lay before your Excellency; I have therefore herewith enclosed it, and would respectfully claim for it your attentive consideration and such an interposition of your Authority as will lead to a correction of the abuses therein set forth.

The letter as you will perceive, does not specify the offences imputed to the individuals whose cases are particularly mentioned. Assuming however that they are charged with treasonable conduct, and properly subject to arrest by the Detectives of the War Department, — a proceeding that I have certainly no inclination to embarrass — the proceedings connected with these arrests as detailed by the communication referred to, and especially the wanton destruction of property as therein mentioned, would seem to be utterly unjustifiable, and to require an immediate investigation into the conduct of the subordinates to whom such proceedings are imputed —

The cause of the Country — which I am sure, is with your Excellency a consideration paramount to all others — not less than the just complaint of the citizen, demands that such conduct should not be tolerated on the part of those claiming to act in its behalf —

If the facts of the case be as stated in this letter, Major Summers is not certainly a proper officer to entrust with duties of so delicate a character, and requiring the exercise of such discretion as is especially necessary in their discharge. The habit of intoxication imputed to him, if sustained, is of itself, as I am sure you will admit, sufficient cause for his prompt removal from such an office.