

I would therefore most respectfully but earnestly request that your Excellency will cause immediate inquiry to be made into the circumstances mentioned, — and if they disclose any such abuses as are mentioned in the enclosed letter, you will I am sure, promptly provide for their correction, and against their recurrence hereafter —

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your obdt. servt.
A. W. Bradford

To His Excellency

Augustus W. Bradford:

The undersigned, Citizens of Saint Mary's County, Maryland, in their own behalf and in behalf of their neighbors and fellow citizens, beg leave respectfully to call the attention of your Excellency to a state of things now existing in this community of which we have just right to complain; and to invoke the aid of your Excellency in bringing our grievances to the notice of the proper Department in Washington, believing as we do, that the outrages to which we are subjected, are perpetrated without the knowledge or sanction of any responsible authority.

We respectfully represent that our Citizens have been arrested by men professing to act under the orders of Col. Baker, Chief of Detectives of the War Department, and their goods carried off without investigation, or time allowed for either investigation or trial.

That women and children passing peaceably from one house to another, have been fired upon and their lives endangered without cause or provocation, in a spirit of mere wanton outrage.

That servants have been taken from the employment of their Masters, and in one instance at least, carried off against their remonstrance.

That the houses of our people have been searched and that negroes have been carried off and those in the company making the search were allowed to dress in the clothes of the family and to carry off what they pleased, and this in the presence, and with the knowledge of the officer in command.

We would call the attention of your Excellency particularly to the case of Mr. E. C. Spaulding, a Citizen of this County doing business as a Merchant at the village of Chaptico, and to that of Mr. Oscar C. Hayden, a Planter of the neighborhood. — Mr. Spaulding was arrested at his residence on the 28th of July and taken on board a Steamboat lying in the Wicomico River. The person making this arrest represented himself to be Major Sumner of the Detective police of the War Department.

We are informed that at the time he represented to Mr. Spaulding that he had a summons for him to go to Washington being wanted there as a witness in some case; and that he was not informed he was a prisoner until he was got on board the boat — The next day the goods in his store were boxed up and taken to the boat to be carried as was said Spaulding, to Washington. The Major meanwhile, selling to persons in the village such articles as they would