

at some ten or twelve times, the balls passing in close proximity to their persons —

The Rector of the Parish, hearing of Hayden's arrest, called at his house to make enquiry into the circumstances and was treated with rudeness and insult by Sumners, and upon his repelling it, he was threatened with arrest.

We regard it as no extenuation of these outrages that the man was generally drunk after an early hour in the morning and that he always left Spaulding's Store in the evening with a bottle in his hand or a demijohn in his (Spaulding's) buggy.

In view of the facts herein set forth, and of our inestimable right as peaceable and quiet citizens, to the enjoyment of Life, Liberty and property, we in no factious spirit, but in full recognition of the Rights and duties of our fellow citizens, respectfully but most earnestly ask your Excellency to take such steps as may bring the matters herein complained of, to the notice of the President or of some other proper Authority, in the hope that it may lead to redress of our grievances, and the putting a stop to all just cause of complaint in the future.

The undersigned have enclosed to the Hon. Charles B. Calvert, late representative from this District a copy of this remonstrance, and have asked his co-operation with your Excellency in furtherance of the object they seek to accomplish.

We are very Respectfully

Your Excellency's most obedt. humble servants

W. H. Thomas

John T. Dent

Mer. Lewis

E. P. Plowden

August 11th 1863

State of Maryland

Executive Department

Annapolis August 24th 1863

Messrs. W. H. Thomas and others

Gentlemen:

On my return two days ago, after an absence of some two weeks, your letter of the 11th Inst. was handed to me by the Secretary of State — It details certain abuses practised by the Detectives of the War Department in your County, and specifies more particularly those connected with the recent arrest by them of Messrs. Spaulding and Hayden and requests me to take such steps as will bring these grievances to the knowledge of the proper authorities at Washington with a view to their redress and the prevention of similar cause of complaint hereafter.

I am not informed by you of the particular offence imputed to either of these gentlemen, but may infer, I suppose, that they are charged with some treasonable practices or communication with the insurgents with whom we are now at war.

Assuming such to be the case, you are quite right