

in seeking your redress for the injuries complained of, at the hands of the officers of the Government who have the conduct of this War in charge, and whilst I feel, that looking to the interests of our own State menaced by these Insurgents, we should do nothing that will embarrass the Government in its attempt to prevent all treasonable assistance to them, I at the same time cheerfully comply with your request of making known your Complaints to the proper Authorities, because I agree with you in the opinion, that the facts as stated by you, seem to present a case against the officer mentioned entirely unjustified by anything appearing on the face of your statement.

I have therefore forwarded your letter to the President, accompanied by one from myself, inviting his particular attention to it, giving him my views as to the fitness of such an officer for such duties, and respectfully requesting that he will cause immediate inquiry to be made into the circumstances of the case, and if they disclose any such abuses as your information leads you to represent, that he will promptly see to their correction and provide against their recurrence hereafter —

I am happy to perceive, Gentlemen, by the conclusion of your letter, that you make these Complaints "in no factious spirit" but in the full recognition of your rights and duties as Citizens — These rights and duties, as you are aware, are reciprocal in their obligations, and I therefore feel authorized to assume that the Citizens in whose behalf these Complaints are made, and which the Government is expected to redress, are prepared to admit their obligation to support it, and to attest it whenever required by their oath of allegiance —

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis August 26th 1863

To Lt. Col. Bowerman

Sir:

I received by the hands of Major Brooks a few days since your letter of 8th Inst. recommending the promotion of two of the officers of the Regt. to the places of Lieut. Colonel and Major — I certainly felt some surprise at the receipt of this letter as according to the Records of this Department the only vacancy among the field officers of that Regiment is in the office of Colonel. — To these Records I would now call your attention.

On the 27th of March last I commissioned you as Colonel of the Regiment and took it for granted that you immediately mustered in — This Commission was certainly confirmed not only by receiving communications from you as the Colonel of the Regiment but by subsequent personal interviews with you