

War Department
Washington City
September 8th 1863

His Excellency A. A. Bradford
Governor of Maryland
Baltimore, Md.

Sir:

The complaint of the citizens of St. Marys County, forwarded by you on the 24th ulto. to His Excellency the President, has been duly investigated by order of the Secretary of War, by whom I am instructed to inform you that the result of such investigation shows that certain officers employed by the Provost Marshal, War Department, have largely exceeded their instructions, that they have in some instances appropriated the property of citizens of Maryland to their own uses, and in others have behaved themselves in offensive and discourteous manner. The evidence so far received has caused the arrest and imprisonment of two men of Col. Baker's force, and they will be speedily brought to trial.

In a report upon this subject received from Col. Baker, that officer states:
"From the evidence in my possession I believe that the charges made of the taking, giving away, and selling a portion of Mr. Spaulding's goods, are so far correct and that a few articles of small value belonging to him were so taken, but have been recovered and are now in my custody, also that the property of a Mr. Boswell of Charles County, was improperly appropriated by Prickett, who was acting without my orders but in connection with officers of my force.
"I can but repeat that my instructions have always been positive to the officers detailed on duty in Maryland to act with extreme caution, to injure neither property nor person and give no just cause for complaint."

Very Respectfully
Your obdt. Servant
Jas. A. Hardie
Asst. Adjt. Genl.

On receipt of the above letter on the 11th September, a copy of the same was forwarded to Mr. W. H. Thomas Chairman of the Committee of Citizens at Charlott's Hall St. Marys County, by the direction of the Governor

John McCarter
Private Secy