

5th Inst. with copy of Order on the subject of slave enlistments. After leaving you on Saturday afternoon last I sent you a communication dated same evening, urging you for the reasons stated, to extend the time for owners to offer their slaves, from thirty to sixty days — As the order is not so modified and your note of 5th makes no reference to the subject, I may presume that the order was forwarded before receipt of my letter and that I may still therefore hope that the suggested modification be allowed — By the terms of the order as it now stands (5th section) the enlistment of slaves without consent is to proceed absolutely at the end of "30 days from date of opening enlistments" be — to this should be added "and notice thereof and of the recruiting stations, published"

I made also another suggestion which I presume is unobjectionable, and if adopted would come in at the end of 6th section as follows — "and allow to any one claiming that his slave has been enlisted without his consent, the privilege of inspecting the enlisted men at the Recruiting Station for the purpose of identifying his property."

I understood from you that the preamble generally of the order you had previously prepared was to be set forth in the modified order except the clause referring to the Act of Congress — The new order however I perceive embodies it all in two lines — I would prefer the form of the first, if for no other reason, because it purported to give the reason why the State of Kentucky was not embraced in the order.

The 3rd section, I think obviously requires an amendment — As it now stands it is utterly unqualified and proclaims all enlisted men free — Do you mean to declare all slaves free though enlisted without consent, or is it not meant to embrace those only offered by their owners — If the former and such a power exists, there would seem to be no necessity for any action of the owner to confer emancipation.

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

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis Oct. 9th 1863

Hon. E. M. Stanton

Secy. of War — Sir:

I feel bound to transmit the accompanying communication from officers of different Volunteer Maryland Regiments now confined as Prisoners of War in the Libby Prison at Richmond.

The situation of these officers has doubtless already engaged your attention, and I venture to hope that their sufferings as set forth in the enclosed letter, may serve to call to your notice more particularly their condition, and that some provision for their Exchange may be speedily effected.

I have the honor to be
Yours very Respectfully
A. W. Bradford