

seemed to him reasonable.

His intimation, that the grievances we suffer are, in any degree, by your consent and arrangement as the Governor of our State, greatly surprised us.

On leaving the President we met our Senator Mr. Seward; Johnson. He told us, there was mistake in the matter; that you would not have consented to these measures to disturb us, or to any other measures to deprive us unlawfully of our slave property; that you had maintained our lawful rights, and procured a promise from the War Department that none of our slaves should, within the next 90 days, be taken from us without our consent, nor without compensation.

We think it due to you and to our rights and the claims they have to your protection, to inform you of the misunderstanding that exists in this matter; and we appeal to your Excellency to exert your just influence and the weight and authority of your office for the protection and security of our people and property.

We remain, Your Excellency's obedient servants

G. C. Magruder

J. H. Lee

Fred. Sasser

Henry W. Clagett

P.S. Mr. Charles S. Calvert, Col. Wm. G. Bowie, Mr. John Bowling and Mr. George W. Morton who were with us of the deputation to the President are not now here, and time does not permit us to delay this communication for their signature.

State of Maryland  
Executive Department

Annapolis October 26<sup>th</sup> 1863

To Messrs. G. C. Magruder, J. H. Lee

Others - Committee to

Gentlemen:

Your letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> Inst. relating the circumstances of your interview with the President on the 21<sup>st</sup> Inst. in relation to the enlistment of slaves in this State is just received and I lose no time in replying to it. If you understood the President correctly to say, "that no complaint of these measures had reached him before ours" (yours) or that these grievances are in any degree being inflicted by my consent, such assertions surprise me quite as much as they could you, and how far they are warranted by the facts you can understand when I relate them.

About the last of August, and directly after I received the first information that officers professing to be in the employment of the Government were engaged in the practice of enlisting slaves, I went to Washington expressly for the purpose of remonstrating against it - I waited on the President, called his attention to the practice, urged the most obvious objections to it and earnestly entreated him to interpose his authority to arrest it; he replied that the practice had only been brought