

to his knowledge two days before, that no orders had been given by him for it, that the subject was then under consideration, and in reply to my request that he would communicate to me the result of that consideration as soon as any conclusion was reached, he promised to do so. I went then to the Secretary of War - he like the President said that the subject was then under consideration, but claimed the right of the Government should the emergency exist, to seize or impress slaves in the same manner as it might any other kind of property required for the Military Service - placing the right to take them not on any Statutory Authority to exist, but claiming only that slaves in common with all other property were subject to seizure in case of a paramount necessity - I left him as I did the President, under the impression that nothing had been determined on, and that I should hear from the President whenever anything should be - A very few days afterwards I wrote to Judge Blair the Post Master General, urging him to see the President and add his remonstrances to mine to have such proceedings arrested - He replied to me in a few days saying that he had laid my letter before the President and should take a further occasion to urge the subject upon him.

Having waited for several weeks and heard nothing further from the President, although the slave enlistments, as I was informed, still continued on the Eastern Shore, on the 25th of September I addressed a long communication on the subject to the President - protesting against the proceeding as still practiced, and invoking again his authority to stop it.

Senators Johnson and Hicks were, at my particular request, the Bearers of this communication to the President, and they both, as I afterwards learned from them, added their own earnest arguments against the proceedings - On the day on which they delivered this letter to the President, (October 1st) he sent me a telegraphic despatch requesting me to meet him on the subject on the 3rd Inst. I went accordingly to Washington on that day and had another interview both with him and the Secretary of War - I referred again to the points taken in my letter - urged especially upon their joint attention the exhausted condition of the agricultural labor of the State, arising from the escape of slaves and other causes, and insisted that if they did not mean for the time being to destroy this branch of productive industry, an end should be put to these proceedings - The President professed to see the force of these suggestions, said that he could well understand the necessity for agricultural labor, and that there was a point beyond which it ought not to be strained, but he said, here is my Minister of War who declares that there exists an urgent necessity for this Military material, and I, said he, do not feel justified in gainsaying it - He then asked whether I could not suggest some modification of the plan of raising these colored troops less objectionable - Mr. Stanton had already prepared

an order on the subject which the President handed to me when I first called on him that day, and which except that it avowed the public necessity that existed, and made the proceeding to be applied to Tennessee as well as Maryland, and promised payment to amount of \$300 for the slave of loyal owners, made no material alteration in the proceedings as then practiced -

I then said to Mr. Stanton, that if in accordance with the President's request, I suggested any modifications in