

the order he had prepared, with a view of securing all the advantages & could for our people, he must not understand me as waiving any objections I had taken to the entire proceeding which I could not but consider as impolitic as it was unjust towards our State — With this avowal more than once repeated, and to which the Secretary as often assented — I suggested several modifications to the order he had prepared. In the first place I said to him, that notwithstanding the dearth of agricultural labor, yet looking on the other hand to the precarious condition at this time of slave property, the facilities for its escape & I thought that many of the slave owners of the State, if notified of the existence of the Military necessity to which his order referred, if assured of the payment of \$300 without unreasonable delay, for slaves fit for Military service, would, if proper opportunities were allowed, be willing to let their slaves enlist and relinquish further claims to their service, at all events that no harm could come of making such an experiment — I also suggested that as the term "loyal owners" might be a somewhat equivocal phrase, and the measure, as I understood from him was not a punitive proceeding, and if it was, would be most partial and unjust in its operation, that the invitation to offer their slaves should be made to all slave owners, forbidding by another clause payment to any who had taken part in the Rebellion or aided and assisted it — To these suggestions the Secretary presently acceded — He then modified his order, provided that recruiting offices should be opened at various points in the State which he would afterwards designate for the enlistment of slaves with the written consent of their owners — who were to be furnished with a certificate by the recruiting officer as soon as the slave was delivered at the recruiting station — which certificate, with subsequent proof of title before Commissioner, and filing manumission and relinquishment of service would entitle the owner to payment of \$300 —

He also assured me in answer to a suggestion to that effect, that it would not be necessary for the recruiting officer to be accompanied with any squad of negro soldiers or soldiers of any kind — and he further provided at my suggestion that whenever a citizen presented himself at these recruiting stations claiming that his slave had found his way there without consent, he should be furnished by the recruiting officer with a descriptive list of the slaves at such station and be allowed to personally inspect them to ascertain the fact of their presence — and agreed also that all the slaves thus enlisted should be credited upon the coming draft — to the County from which they came —

He further expressly ordered that all other recruiting of slaves in Maryland than this so provided should cease until these recruiting stations were thus appointed and notice of them published, and thirty days had elapsed after such publication — If at the end of that time recruits enough were not furnished to meet the alleged necessity, he reserved the right to still proceed with such enlistments, with compensation as stated be with or without the consent of the owners —

A copy of the order thus modified was transmitted to me early in the present month — but no recruiting officers were appointed and no notice of such has ever appeared, at which I was gratified, not only because all enlistments without owners' consent were expressly