

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis Nov. 9th 1863

Richard J. Gittings Esq

Dear Sir:

Yours of 4th Inst. is received — I find the copy of the letter to which you refer being letter from Gov. Hicks of the 25th February 1861 assigning you as Counsel in case against the Washington Turnpike Company which is sufficient as I understand it, to authorize you to follow up the case on the Appeal to the Supreme Court, which I presume you will accordingly do.

Yours very Respectfully
A. W. Bradford

Baltimore November 18th 1863

To His Excellency
The Governor,

Dear Sir:

The case of Myers against The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, stands an early number on the docket of the Supreme Court, at its approaching Term, and will probably be called during the first week. It was unexpectedly reached at the last term, in my absence, and through the inadvertence of the Clerk, was dismissed; but afterwards upon my application, the Court ordered it to be reinstated and continued. I now beg leave to ask further instructions.

It seems to me that the political reasons for a continuance, are now as strong, if not stronger, than they were at the last two terms. I need not recapitulate them.

As to Myers, he was released on his own recognizance soon after the trial; and has been, and still is, at large, and undisturbed — and as to the Negroes claimed as fugitives, they were surrendered to the State Authorities, by a private agreement between him and their former owners; and I apprehend therefore no further action in the State Court.

If then you agree with me, that it is inexpedient to try the case at the approaching term, I must ask you to obtain from Governor Curtin, as speedily as you can, his written assent to a continuance, that it may with your own, be presented to the Court.

In the event of his refusal, or that of the Court, to the continuance of the cause, it is for you to decide whether it shall be tried, or abandoned — Would it be wise or politic, at this particular juncture in Maryland, to rouse sectional feelings, or to disturb the present amicable relations between the two States, by a controversy that has become fruitless? For hereafter to stake it, no case can arise under the Pennsylvania Statute.

But supposing you agree with me on the score of public policy, yet if the case be pressed to a trial, by the Atty. Genl.