

I therefore have the honor to request that your Excellency will furnish the Commissioners of the respective Counties in case it is not already done, the names of all colored recruits mustered in (freemen) as stated on the rolls together with instructions to pay the same without further question.

I am Sir

Most Respectfully,

Your Obedt. Servant

J. H. Bennett

1st Lt. Penna. Vols.

Chief Mustering & Recr. Off.

for colored troops in Maryland.

State of Maryland
Executive Department
Annapolis May 24th 1862

Col. S. M. Bennett
Chief Mustering Office U.S. Vols.

Sir

I have received yours of 2nd Inst inquiring whether or not the County Commissioners have been furnished by my direction with the names of all the colored men enlisted into the U.S. Service and also furnished with the means of paying them the bounty provided by the Laws of the State.

In reply I would state that immediately upon receipt of the rolls of any volunteer except Slaves, properly certified by Col. Jeffries, an authority annexed to a duplicate of such roll is immediately forwarded to the Commissioners of the County to which the men are credited, empowering them to draw on the Treasury for the amount required to pay their Bounties.

In the case of slaves, the proceeding is different; Our Bounty act does not provide for their payment through the instrumentality of the County Commissioners, nor makes any particular provision as to the manner of payment, but only that master and slave shall be paid each a bounty of \$100. — and consequent-ly they are paid directly at the State Treasury; and whenever a Roll of slave enlistments is received here a duplicate is at once referred to the Comptroller, who pays or causes slave as soon as he is furnished with proof of the man's mis- sion. — In neither case is there any delay in the trans- mission of the Roll and Authority by this Department,

but they are invariably forwarded on the day of their receipt. You say that these recruits have been mustered into the service relying on the ^{assurances of the} Mustering Officer that they would be immediately paid their Bounties; which