

Assurance was given upon the faith of the prompt and cheerful execution of the State Law and that this assurance has not been realized except in Baltimore City. I can only say that I have never heard of any intimation by us that there was any want of disposition to pay promptly and cheerfully the Bounty to every one entitled to it, and I am satisfied that if any delay has occurred, it has been experienced alike by white and black recruits, and is by no means owing to any neglect of State or County Authorities. — It must be borne in mind that even after the County Commission is in receipt of the bounty fund a delay in paying the several individuals must frequently occur. —

It can only be paid by them to the volunteer himself or to his duly authorized Attorney; the Power of Attorney being properly executed attested and acknowledged, and lodged with the Commissioners. — Nor is it the business of the Commissioners to go in search of the volunteer's attorney, but the latter must seek their payment at the Commissioners' Office. — This rule applies of course to all volunteers both white and colored.

You do injustice to I think to the County Commissioners in imputing to them any unreasonable construction of the Bounty Act, or in supposing that they require proof of the recruit being a freeman before paying the Bounty. — There is no doubt that you in making out your Rolls, return the recruit as a free man or slave according to the best information in your possession, — but the information in most cases must come necessarily from the recruit himself, and to say nothing of the ordinary temptation to misrepresent his condition there is superadded a very influential one arising from the fact that the State Bounty to a free colored volunteer is \$200 and to a slave only \$100. — This consideration therefore caused me when addressing a Circular to the County Commissioners on 22<sup>nd</sup> March last instructing them as to the course of proceeding in all matters connected with the bounty to say to them "in making payments of Bounties to men returned as free colored volunteers you should observe a proper caution, so as to correct as far as possible any deception which may have been practised on the Mustering Office, by such volunteer representing himself as a free man when in fact he was a slave." — Mr. Goldsborough, the Comptroller of the Treasury did not consider this caution quite sufficient, and he consequently prepared the form of a Certificate which he required the Commissioners to make to him before he would pay on these Rolls. — A copy of this Certificate is herewith enclosed, and whatever is done by the