

Col. Bowman Chief Mustering Officer of Colored troops in Baltimore, which undertakes peremptorily to order the Sheriff to open the County Jail and deliver to the recruiting officer certain negroes therein confined, on penalty of immediate arrest and escort to Baltimore "under guard of negro troops" in case of refusal. I enclose a copy of the letter and also copy of a commitment in one case, and of the docket entries in another pending in the Court of this County, relating to the cases of two of the prisoners thus demanded by Col. Bowman; from which you will perceive that they are held by the Sheriff to answer for criminal offences, one of them under Indictment already found. The third prisoner referred to in the letter and who as I understand from the Sheriff was placed in his custody by his owner a few days since until he could have the opportunity of enlisting him, has been taken out and has enlisted in the service.

I forbear to comment on the tone of Col. Bowman's letter and the menace made against an officer of the State for refusing to disregard his sworn duty, but I make this simple representation to you of the facts of the case in the confident belief that you will take immediate measures to prevent anywhere within this Military Department so gross an outrage as Colonel Bowman apparently contemplates.

I have the honor to be  
 With great respect  
 Your obt. servt.  
 A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland  
 Executive Department  
 Annapolis May 27<sup>th</sup> 1864

To the County Commissioners  
 of \_\_\_\_\_ County  
 Gentlemen:

The frequent enquiries made of me on behalf of the County Authorities as to the proper course to be observed by them in payment of the State Bounty to colored volunteers, the mistakes that have already been discovered in describing on the Bounty rolls, volunteers of that character as free, who in fact are slaves and therefore not entitled to the bounty allowed to free volunteers, and the obvious liability of that class of persons to imposition, seem to me to render it necessary that some rule should be adopted which may protect their interest as well as the interest of the State, in the manner of paying such bounties. The ignorant and illiterate condition of that class of our population, and the dependence they have been accustomed to repose in others render them peculiarly