

Md. Dep. Middle Dept. 8<sup>th</sup> Army Corps  
Baltimore Md. May 30<sup>th</sup> 1864

Gov. A. W. Bradford

Sir:

I referred your letter of the 26<sup>th</sup> instant touching the action of Col. Bowman in the matter of 3 negro recruits in the Anne Arundel Jail, to Col. Bowman for explanation, supposing there must be some mistake about the affair on his part.

I have the honor to enclose you his reply, which concludes with the statement that the difficulty is concluded by an explanation made to Col. B. by Sheriff McCullough.

Very Respectfully

Your friend & servant

Lew. Wallace

Major Genl. Comdg. Middle Dept.

No 24 Holliday St. Baltimore  
May 28<sup>th</sup> 1864

Lot. Col. Lawrence

A. A. G.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter referred to me by the Commanding General from "His Excellency Governor Bradford referring to the matter of Sheriff McCullough, and invoking the General's interposition to prevent me from perpetrating what His Excellency characterizes as an "outrage"

The position of Chief M. & R. Officer Colored troops is difficult to fill, disagreeable and distasteful. I occupy it much against my inclinations - The Secy. of War expects me to recruit every able negro I can get - I cant do it without hurting somebody. But in this case I encountered opposition where it was least expected. I was told by citizens of Anne Arundel County there were slaves there fit for Military duty wholly useless to their masters. They proposed to put them in jail on some pretext so as to be seen by a recruiting officer. I sent Capt. Reed and squad there for the purpose stated. But the jailor was adverse; he refused to allow Capt. Reed to take one who had been put there by the owner for the purpose and who had placed an order in Capt. Reed's hands authorizing him to take him, and it was not until after the owner remonstrated in person that he was able to get the negro.

One other negro was put there for a like purpose. Two others were reported as being there for trivial offences, and all three desired to enlist but the jailor refused. An appeal was taken to Mr. McCullough the Sheriff, who also refused: "He did not put it on the ground that the men were there charged with crime but on the ground that he should not "recognize Military orders"