

State of Maryland

Executive Department

Baltimore, June 5<sup>th</sup> 1864

Major Genl. Lew. Wallace

Commanding Middle Department  
General:

The within Memorial addressed to me by Citizens of Queen Annes County in this State relates to a Military levy made upon them to which I had occasion briefly to advert in a letter to you a few days since introducing John Brown Esq. one of the sufferers under that proceeding. I know of no better way of disposing of this Memorial than to enclose it to you, submitting to your sound judgement and sense of justice the action it may be advisable to take, having a proper regard not only to the rights of the Citizen as to the probable effect of such a proceeding upon the successful operations of the Government.

I cannot but think that in this instance its officers have to some extent at least been deceived or imposed on; certainly such would seem to be the case in regard to the value of the property destroyed, which all concur in representing as not worth more than from 5 to \$800, whilst a levy of some \$2500 has been made as compensation for it.

I admit that the loyal people of the Country — and no where more than in this State — have cheerfully submitted to any such exercise of Military power as seemed obviously necessary to save the Country or to secure its Union Citizens against the raids or other unlawful acts of its enemies; and therefore when the persons or property of such Citizens have been seized or destroyed by Guerilla bands in districts subject to their depredations, after due notice given that neighborhoods harboring such enemies would be held responsible for their acts, assessments made upon their known sympathisers have been approved by the public sentiment.

So in our own State when some time ago our enrolling officers were openly menaced by Secession sympathisers and in several instances in pursuance of such threats their Dwellings or Outbuildings were actually destroyed, and it became necessary to take prompt measures to check such outrages and protect these officers in the discharge of so important a duty, these sympathisers were made by a Military assessment to repair the loss so sustained, and the sentiment of our loyal people approved the proceeding.

But these are exceptional cases where the outrage to be punished is capable of being traced beyond any reasonable doubt to the enemies of the Government, and where the consequence of suffering them to be investigated only by the ordinary and dilatory process of the law might be fraught with great danger to the public safety. — In the case now brought to your attention I do not understand that the usual warning had been given or that there is any proof