

tending to establish the fact that the Church was burnt by any enemy of the Government or that its destruction was certainly or even probably connected with political considerations or influences of any kind. The Grand Jury of the County where the occurrence took place, as you will perceive by a statement in the Memorial, had the subject under their consideration and were unable even upon the ex parte proofs on the part of the prosecution, which alone are submitted to such a tribunal, to find any Indictment, and I am also informed by highly respectable and loyal Citizens of the County not personally interested in this assessment, that seventeen of the twenty three Grand Jurors that so investigated the subject were Union men —

Under those circumstances, General, I can not but hope that you will come to the conclusion that this is a case for your interposition. These forced Military levies, where the amount levied and the apportionment of it are to a great extent a matter of arbitrary determination, where not even a Military trial precedes the judgement and execution, and all the details of the assessment are left, as they generally must be, to the discretion of subordinates, are, of all the Military functions allowed upon the ground of necessity, regarded with the least favor, and liable to the greatest abuse — They are well calculated to excite the public odium and give occasion to the enemies of the Government to rail at its proceedings.

Already as you are doubtless aware General, even some of the political friends of the President are making an outcry against what they term his arbitrary exercise of authority and assumption of unconstitutional power, and I feel sure that every true friend of the Administration will take pleasure in removing as far as possible all just cause for such complaints, as well as in upholding the acknowledged rights of the citizen in all cases unless the most unequivocal necessity requires that they should for the time be suspended.

I have the honor to be

With great respect

Your obdt. servt.

A. W. Bradford

Leonard Town June 5<sup>th</sup> 1864

His Excellency A. W. Bradford  
Governor of Maryland

Dear Sir:

I conceive it to be my duty to represent to you the facts in a case which has occurred in this County. Dr. Thos. A. Signal, a respectable gentleman of this County, had a difficulty with one of his servants, and chastised, whether slightly or grievously I can not say — about ten days afterwards the woman went within the lines of