

State of Maryland,
Executive Department
Annapolis June 9th 1864

His Excellency A. Lincoln
President of the United States
Mr. President:

I have the honor to enclose a copy of a letter received from G. H. Meador Esq. of Saint Marys County in this State in relation to the arrest of Dr. Lynch a citizen of that County and the appointment of a Military Commission by Major Genl. Butler for the trial of said Lynch upon, as I infer from the letter, the charge of homicide. It would seem that the accused is not in the Military service, nor was the violence from which the death is supposed to have resulted, committed at any Military post but within the house of the accused in that County.

I cannot therefore perceive any Military rule or necessity or any other good cause for arraigning the accused before a Military tribunal or depriving the usual Civil Authorities of the State of their proper cognizance of such a case.

In the absence of any such cause I hope that your Excellency will cause the said accused to be delivered over to the Civil Authorities for trial, who will I am sure, see that he is properly punished if convicted—

Should circumstances seem to require it, or the Government or the friends of the deceased request it, I will undertake that additional and special Counsel shall be employed by the State to assist in the prosecution

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

24 Holliday St. Baltimore Md.
June 12th 1864

To His Excellency A. W. Bradford
Govr. of the State of Maryland
Sir:

I have the honor to state that the County Commissioners of the different Counties find a few recruits set down as free who are in fact slaves; also some set down as slaves who are free, and others as slaves who are only apprentices. I am at a loss how to report such. My idea is to make out an amended roll showing in remarks the errors in each case, and reporting to Adjutant Genl. U. S. Army, to the Board of Claims and to you according to the facts in each case. From this can be made the necessary notations on rolls so as to secure uniformity. But as this has reference to the State law and concerns especially the State of Md. I would like your own views of the subject.