

The papers have just been received back from the War Department.

I respectfully call the attention of your Excellency to the endorsement of the Hon. Mr. Dana Assistant Secretary of War, dated War Department 24th Inst; and state that as the best mode of securing the release of the parties I would ask you to so direct, if you think you have the legal authority to do so.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.

Lew. Wallace
Maj. Genl. Vols.

State of Maryland
Executive Department

Annapolis July 2nd 1864

Major Genl. Lew. Wallace
Comdg Middle Department
General:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 29th Ucto. together with the papers to which it refers, relating to the arrest and imprisonment in Charles County Jail, of George A. Moody and William Jones and two colored men arrested with them a short time since, and who have sought the interposition of the Government to effect their release — I have read with attention the several papers you have enclosed, being the complaints of these parties or their friends and the Reports of the Military officers charged with their investigation, and without the benefit of any counter statements on the part of those who arrested them, I think that the facts or circumstances of these arrests as disclosed by the papers transmitted admit of but little doubt — The two colored men referred to who were slaves belonging to Citizens of Charles County, having left their owners and found employment under the Government, subsequently sought to remove their wives who were slaves in the same County, and having employed these men Moody and Jones to assist them in that undertaking, and provided themselves with Passes from a Provost Marshal were in the execution of that purpose when arrested.

These I repeat, would seem obviously to be the simple facts connected with the arrest of these parties, and without making any comment thereon or speculating upon the precise meaning of the War Department in its order of 24th Ucto. subscribed by the Asst. Secretary of War, directing you "to take measures to secure the release of the parties imprisoned" I take great pleasure in perceiving that you have sought to effect that object through the instrumentality of the Civil Authorities of the State, and I fully