

please their own recognizance — If on the other hand you find the authority for their imprisonment in perfect and unobjectionable form, and from the proper officer and therefore can find nothing patent on the face of the proceedings which authorizes you to order their release, I would fix some moderate amount of bail for their future appearance at Court, inform them of it, and let them be released in that manner whenever such bail is offered — As regards the two who are slaves, I doubt whether their owners will believe that their interests can be promoted by objecting to such a release — The slaves have been, as is shown by the papers in the case, for sometime past in Government employment, and if the Government claims and exercises as we know it does, the right to go upon the owners plantation and enlist his slaves in the Military service, we can readily perceive a very little stretch of authority is required for it to interfere for the release of such parties, after they are in fact in such service, and have been arrested and detained from it. —

You will I am sure whilst these parties remain in prison, see that no greater rigor is practiced towards them than is reasonably necessary to prevent their escape, and avoid thereby all color for the allegation that any thing of a vindictive character mingles with the motives for their imprisonment.

Again reminding you of the importance of avoiding by all proper means all collision between the Military and Civil Authorities, I would respectfully request you to examine particularly into the charges against these men, and the authority under which they are detained, and hope for your concurrence in the views I have ventured to suggest.

Yours very Respectfully
A. W. Bradford

Adj. Qrs. Middle Dept. 8th Army Corps
Baltimore Md. July 4th 1864

His Excellency
Gov. A. W. Bradford

Dear Sir:

Yours of 2nd July is at hand.

Not having the papers on my table, I am not prepared to enter into any argument touching either the facts of the arrest of Moody, Jones and others, or the suggestions of policy your Excellency is pleased to make.

I thank you for the remark concerning my disposition to respect the Civil Authorities of your State. It has been with me a controlling influence throughout my administration, and I assure you it shall continue to be. But I am compelled to call your