

to me, which I deeply regret. I have no thought or wish to do anything but show and exact justice, and I am satisfied if we could confer personally together in regard to the matters in controversy, we could settle the whole matter in two hours time. I claim to have used all the care possible in enlisting in this State; to have prevented to the utmost extent of my power all colored men leaving the State to enlist elsewhere; to have preserved as near as possible the proper status of free and slaves; to have credited to the different Counties the men belonging to them, and to have promised only such bounty as was provided by the laws of Maryland. This Bounty I promised should be paid before the men should go to the field, not anticipating their sudden removal, and when I found they were going disappointed and dissatisfied as they might well be, I collected as a matter of duty I owed to them, to collect their bounty for them, in case they were not paid in any other way. This is all I have attempted to do.

It is said I have threatened to credit all the slaves to Massachusetts or Pennsylvania. I beg you not to believe such nonsense. I have no power to do this and would not do it if I had. All I ask is that these men raised by me and promised bounty by me shall be paid the bounty provided by law.

It may not be known to you that 600 of these men have been transferred to the Navy. It was to meet this difficulty in part that powers of attorney were made. These men are now scattered throughout the Navy and knowing I have powers of attorney suppose I have collected their bounty and are constantly drawing on me only to be disappointed.

I am also blamed with the case of Henry Mitchell who enlisted as a free man, now claimed as a slave. Mitchell had been permitted to run at large as a free man for some time; enlisted as a free-man and no owner ever appeared to claim him as a slave until after he had drawn his bounty. His bounty was not paid on a power of attorney as the Comptroller alleges but to him personally. I really hope some happy expedient shall be adopted which shall secure a proper understanding and co-operation in the premises.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Most Respectfully

Your obdt. servant

J. M. Bowman

Col. 84th Penna. Vols.

Adj. M. & R. Officer for
Col. Troops in Md.