

MSA SC 5463-7-4




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Head Quarters Department of Annapolis
Fort M^c Henry May 26th 1861

To
The Hon. Roger B. Taney
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
of the United States, Baltimore Md.

Sir

The undersigned to whom the annexed writ of this date signed by Thomas Spicer Clerk of the Supreme Court of the United States is directed, most respectfully states, that the arrest of Mr. John Maurman in the said writ named was not made with his knowledge or by his order or direction, but was made by Colonel Samuel Yoke acting under the orders of Major Genl. W^m H. Keim both of said officers being in the Military Service of the United States, but not within the limits of his Command. The prisoner was brought to this Post on the 25th Instant by Adjutant James Wittmore and



Lieut. W^m H. Abel by order of Colonel Joyce, and
is charged with various acts of treason, and with
being publicly associated with and holding a Commis-
sion as Lieutenant in a Company having in their
possession arms belonging to the United States and
avowing his purpose of armed hostility against
the Government. He is also informed that it
can be clearly established, that the prisoner has
made open and unreserved declarations of his
association with this organized force as being
in avowed hostility to the Government and in readi-
ness to co-operate with those engaged in the
present rebellion against the Government of the
United States. He has further to inform you that
he is duly authorized by the President of the
United States, in such cases to suspend the writ of
Habeas Corpus for the Public Safety. This is a
high and delicate trust and it has been en-
joined upon him that it should be executed
with judgment and discretion, but he is neverthe-

-less also instructed that in times of Civil strife
errors, if any, should be on the side of safety to the
Country.

He most respectfully submits for your consid-
eration that those who should Co-operate in the pre-
sent trying and painful position in which our
Country is placed, should not by reason of any un-
necessary want of confidence in each other increase
our embarrassments.

He therefore respectfully requests that you will
postpone further action upon this case until he
can receive instructions from the President of the
United States, when you shall hear further from him
I have the honor to be

With high respect

Your Obedt. Servt.

Geo. W. W. W.

Br. Major General

U. S. Army

etmq.



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June 27 May 1861