

June 27th May 1861

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

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 Murrinan in the said writ named was not made with his knowledge or by his order or direction, but was made by Colonel Samuel G. Ashe 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. Wm. C. Abel by order of Colonel Yoke, and is charged with various acts of treason, and with being publicly associated with and holding a Commission 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 readiness 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 enjoined upon him that it should be executed with judgment and discretion, but he is overth-

-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. Adams

Bt. Major General

U. S. Army

Comd.

