

Georgetown S. C.

Decr: 24. 1864.

To His Excellency

Governor Magrath.

Dear Sir: It is proper that I should address the Chief Magistrate of the State at the present time - In December 1861 the General Assembly appointed a Police Court for this, & the other Sea-board Districts, with extensive powers & jurisdiction, & to continue so long as the public enemy held possession of any portion of the Coast. The Court consists of a presiding officer & four Associate members - Of these eleven, two, being unqualified, from the date of the appointment, are within the limits of conscript age - Your predecessors in office have claimed the officers of this Court as essential to the execution of the laws of the State.

The Slave population of this District is very numerous - whilst the white is extremely small. For the purposes of police, there are not left us along the Rivers, Men enough in any neighborhood to form a suitable Patrol - The Government of the Police Court is the sole authority remaining to us to controvert the negroes & to keep order. The constant presence & proximity of the Enemy, exercise an unhappy influence

over them & it has been the duty of the Police Court to resort to some measures, in order to suppress this demoralized spirit. In the past three years, eleven have accordingly been sentenced to suffer the extreme penalty of the Law & have been executed, & others have been punished for offenses committed against the peace & good order of the Community. A condition of perfect quiet now exists here, among us.

It is due to the Governor of the State, that this information be given. Another reason prompts me, to do it. I will not be appreciated; The Status of the Police Court ought to be sustained, with a view to its dignity & usefulness, or its existence abolished.

This Communication is therefore made & most respectfully submitted

I am Sir  
Your Obedt. Servt.

Francis S. Parker  
Pres. Police Court  
of Georgetown District.

Francis S. Parker  
Pres. Police Court  
(36) Georgetown Dist.  
Decey by  
Note the liability of the  
Members of his Court to  
Service and as to their <sup>rights</sup>  
being claimed by the  
Gov. Governor.