

The State of Maryland, to all our Bailiffs and Good People to whom these Presents shall come greeting. Whereas Gerard Von Harten, of Baltimore County, has been indicted in a number of cases for forgery, and has been in two cases convicted and sentenced to five years work and labour and so forth in each case, and in one other case has been acquitted, all of which cases are stated to stand on the same grounds, and to depend on the same testimony; and whereas the said Von Harten has to the utmost of his power satisfied the Creditors affected by said Forgeries by the voluntary surrender of his wife's Portion at her instance advanced for the payment by her father, in so much that almost the whole of the Creditors have united with him in petitioning for a pardon; And whereas a number of the Grand Jury, and eight of the Petit Jury in one case, and nine of the Petit Jury in the other case in which he was convicted, together with a great number of the most respectable Citizens, an amiable and disconsolate wife, whose innocence and sufferings enlist every sympathy of the benevolent heart, have petitioned for forgiveness, the noblest attribute of Heaven; and whereas the Bar have expressed serious doubts of his guilt, which doubts the Petition of nearly three fourths of the Petit Jury, the legitimate organ of the truth of the Facts strongly enforce: and whereas he has been dragged heavily ironed from Kentucky to Baltimore on horse back, and imprisoned for upwards of eighteen months heavily ironed, whereby there can be no doubt of his suffering, although there are serious doubts of his guilt. I have therefore thought proper to pardon the said Gerard Von Harten for the two cases in which he hath been sentenced, and do hereby order and direct that he not only be released from the service of ten years to which he hath been adjudged, but that all further Proceedings at law against him for or on account of any of the said forgeries do cease and determine and that no further prosecution be