

The State of Maryland to wit whereas it appears that Negro Tom the property of George Griffith of Harford County did on the twenty ninth day of January last inflict a wound on negro Charles a boy of seventeen years old with a rake which occasioned the death of said Charles on the eighth Instant And whereas it has been represented to me by the said George Griffith master of Tom that he the said negro Tom was Uncle to Charles and had always appeared to possess the most affectionate feeling towards him that he had been sent to bush hill with a load of produce and on returning after twilight perceived that there was no food prepared for his Team and on enquiring the reason of Charles whose duty it was to have provided it received a very impertinent answer which adding to the irritation he felt previously induced him to chastise him and a rake being unfortunately the first thing he laid hold of he struck him with it and the teeth entered the brain of the said Charles that Tom has always been a quiet peaceable fellow and much attached to his nephew is truly afflicted on account of his death and deeply penitent for the rashness that occasioned it - And whereas a number of respectable persons inhabitants of said County and acquainted with the circumstances of the said ^{man} have joined with the said George Griffith in recommending the said Tom to me as a fit object for the interposition of Government. I have therefore thought proper to order and direct that all proceedings at law against the said Negro Tom for or on account of the offence aforesaid do cease and determine and that no further prosecution be had or carried on against