Pardon granted application for the pardon of Wm Bradlove & the reasons will be furnished to morrow

John Letcher
Dec 18: 1863

Dec. 19
Pardoned

To his Excellency John Letcher Governor of Virginia —

We the undersigned respectfully represent to your Excellency that Wm. Bredlow a free person of colour who was convicted by the County Court of Essex on the 16th day of March 1863 of aiding and abetting runaway slaves, whom we have known for a number of years, has uniformly borne a high character, and has been regarded in the community as an honest, industrious and upright citizen, and of great use and value to the community as a blacksmith — The offence aforesaid of which the said Bredlow stands convicted and for which he has been sentenced to be sold into absolute slavery, is the only offence affecting the character of the said Bredlow that has come to our knowledge, and we are satisfied from all the circumstances of the case that it was not the intention of the said Bredlow to violate the law, but that he was assisting persons the runaway slaves across the Rappahannock River under the impression that they had sufficient passes from the owners, and George T. Wright, the principal witness who testified against the said Bredlow is under the same impression —

In view of these facts, we respectfully request your Excellency to grant a pardon to the said Bredlow.

Ro: L. Montague

James M. Matthews.