

D. A. BENJAMIN'S AFFIDAVIT,

About Colonel Tevis' proceedings in Kent County.

State of Maryland, Kent County, to wit:

On this 25th of November 1863, personally appeared David A. Benjamin, of Kent county, the Jailor of said county, and a Deputy Sheriff of said county, and living in the Jail with his family, before me the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace of the State of Maryland for said county, and made oath on the Holy Evangely of Almighty God, that on Monday afternoon, Nov. 2d, 1863, about three or four o'clock, Col. J. C. Tevis, then in command of the United States troops at Chestertown, at the Hotel of J. O. Rasin, in said town, told deponent that he understood that he had three negro men in jail under suspicion; deponent replied that there were three negro men in jail under Indictment by the Grand Jury—said Col. Tevis then handed deponent an order or paper for the release of said prisoners, signed by himself, which he took back and never returned it to this deponent. While Col. Tevis was making a copy of the order for the release of the negroes, John Frazier, Jr. touched him (Tevis) upon the arm, and took him into the passage of the hotel where they conversed for a short time; when Col. Tevis returned to the room and inquired of deponent if his name was Benjamin, and on deponent's replying in the affirmative, Col. Tevis said he had an order for deponent's arrest; deponent was sent off under a file of soldiers, and committed to jail and locked up, and the said prisoners released. Deponent asked to have an interview with his wife, that he might quiet her fears, as she was distressed—he was soon forced off from her presence, and he and she treated rudely.