

To His Excellency. Andrew B Moore. Governor of the State of Alabama.

The petition of the undersigned citizens of the county of Sumter, and some of them jurors who rendered the verdict hereinafter alluded to, respectfully represents unto your Excellency, that at the last term of the Circuit Court for this County, Daniel Ayres, a citizen of the County, in good standing, was tried on an indictment for an assault and battery with a pistol upon a negro man, a slave, and was found by the verdict of the jury, guilty only of an assault, and was fined in the sum of three hundred dollars.

The circumstances under which this assault was committed, were, in our opinion, of such a character as to render this fine greatly disproportioned to the offence. The slave was not in the slightest degree injured, and Mr Ayres declared at the time, that he had no intention of doing him any harm. Mr Ayres also said that the slave had been very insolent to him, and that on several occasions, by his impudence and violence had given great provocations for an assault. But the defendant was not permitted to prove these circumstances of provocation and aggravation on his trial.

We do not mean to cast any reflection whatever on the Hon. Court who tried the cause; nor on the jury who ~~tried~~ rendered the verdict; neither do we by petitioning your Excellency for the remission of this fine, wish to give the slightest countenance to the practice, unhappily but too common in these days, of turning away from the legal tribunals of the land and seeking redress for wrongs and injuries in acts of private vengeance.

We believe that every violation of the law should be adequately punished. But we also believe that in the trial and conviction of Mr Ayres he has already been sufficiently punished for the offence he committed. He is an industrious and hard working mechanic who

acquires money
only by the sweat of his brow. For these reasons we res-
pectfully petition your Excellency to remit this fine
against Mr Ayres. And as in duty bound &c
June 1858.

W. G. Carter.
Jas. M. Tucker. a juror
John W. Harris
M. H. Sanders
W. S. Over
G. Braly
J. A. Pettigrew
Chas W. Hooks
James M. Lee
W. H. Kennedy.
W. D. Baugh
Saml. P. Deane

Levy Jenkins
J. A. Jenkins
Richard Smith
Hilliard, J. Fincher
William Kennedy
Wm M. Hill
B. F. Kennedy
John Jackson
C. S. Sanders
John W. Altman
V. Maggard
G. W. Com
Wm C. Watt
Giles Jayne
John L. Cary
Jas. J. Praytor
Reuben Thom
Orel L. Ayre, Aff. Juror
R. L. Howie D. Shob

Robt. Arrington
Knob & Dent
R. Beck
M. W. Marshall
George L. Komegar
Josiah Moore
John Smith
Samuel D. Swann
Chas. H. Swann
George M. Tonn
Threshley Fennell
John Ward
John Thompson
James Nixon
J. H. Kuttin
B. F. Praytor
W. L. Childs
P. W. Moneth
J. H. Knight
B. M. Estridge
Capt. J. Thomas, Juror
J. M. Potts
C. F. Heister
R. M. Bryan
C. Lockard
William P. Bremer
W. T. Harris
H. F. Arlington
J. L. Spratt
J. A. Abraham
W. W. Wagon
J. C. Gillingham

Wm. Tuckey
William Kirkland

J. K. Miller

W. C. Doason

Thomas Jordan

W. J. Lowe

J. A. Scott

W. V. Mare

J. H. Furman

R. M. Breun

Wm. H. Reagles

H. C. Gibbens

Robt. H. Arrington

W. D. Coleman

R. C. Parish

J. F. Howerton

J. M. Camy Little

J. S. Semps

Wm. R. Hook

M. J. Nichols

B. B. Saunders

G. W. Fairwood

Wm. Lockard

James B. May

J. M. Daniel

J. M. Briggs

J. H. Harris

Wm. Cunningham

B. W. Infree

W. W. Batter

Jas. Tiller

John Williams

W. B. Merriman

J. F. Campbell

John Geiger

James B. Flower

Daniel B. Miller

~~L. J. Felt~~

E. J. Felt

R. Y. Ramey

Preston G. Nash

H. W. Norvell

B. J. Harris

E. H. Vstick

C. M. Shields

H. B. Leveritt

Ben. B. Little

Sam. S. Webb

Am. W. White

James Branch

Geo. B. Saunders

Wm. J. Furman

Sam. A. Hale

Wm. Ayres
Sumter Co
Petition

