

December 14, 1931

Editor,
Brooklyn Daily Eagle,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Editor:

On account of absence from Maryland the editorial in your issue of Tuesday, December 8th, entitled "Mr. Ritchie and the Negroes" was not called to my attention in time for me to write you in regard to it until today. Perhaps it is too late now for the statements contained in this editorial to be corrected, but they are so completely contrary to the facts that at least I can inform you of them so that you may know the injustice which you have unintentionally done.

Your editorial rests on the assertion that I had refused protection to a certain lawyer who was attorney for a Negro accused of murder, and that this refusal has been followed by a lynching. The facts are that as soon as I heard that the lawyer in question had been molested I got in immediate communication with the Judge and the State's Attorney of the Circuit, who, in their turn, conferred with the Mayor and the Chief of Police of the town, and informed me that the local authorities were able to handle any situation of the same kind which might recur, and that they would let me know in the event that any assistance from me would be needed. I accepted these assurances from the local authorities. As a matter of fact the attorney did not go back to the county so that there was no repetition of the trouble.

So far as subsequent developments in this particular case and in the subsequent lynching case are concerned, your editorial was so completely in error that the Baltimore Sun, on December 11th, published an editorial in reply to it, and outlining the steps I had actually taken in regard to both cases. I enclose you a copy of this editorial, and also a copy of my statement issued on December 5th, and referred to in the editorial of the Baltimore Sun.

It would not be appropriate at this stage for me to go into greater detail beyond saying that as a result of investigations made under my direction, the Attorney General of the State, also under my direction, is at present in Salisbury performing the duties which the situation calls for.

What you evidently did was to assume the correctness of the statements made in a telegram sent me on December 5th by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. This Association obviously had not