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Deposition of
John P. Brown

Copies

76-272

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The deposition of John Hammetton Brown
aged 43 years a citizen of Prince Georges County in
the State of Maryland on the Patuxent River
about four miles from upper Marlborough
being duly sworn deposes and says that in the month
of August last when the British forces were on their
way to the City of Washington Capt Dours and
Capt Armstrong of the said Forces came to his house
that Capt Dours asked this deponent when he awoke
what this deponent replied that fearing they
would be carried away by the British they had made
their escape and gone out into the neighbourhood
to which Capt Dours replied that they should not
be taken away whereupon this deponent said if
Capt Dours would declare that they should not be
forced away he this deponent not fearing the deponent
of his negroes would send for them. At this time
this deponent sent for his negroes and they returned and
after dinner, for both the officers aforesaid dined with
this deponent, Capt Dours went into this deponent's
kitchen when the negroes were and this deponent dis-
tinctly heard Capt Dours persuade his negroes
to go off and offered them money and told them
that they should have land to work and should be
free and as well off as any white people - and this

deponent further says that on the next day he entered into a familiar conversation with Capt D'Orme and asked him what could be the object of the British in taking off Negroes and tobacco as they did to which Capt D'Orme replied that the negroes and tobacco were of great importance to the British officers for that altho the British government were to know nothing of it the negroes and tobacco were considered as the private emolument of the officers and that likely negroes were worth four eight hundred to a thousand dollars each and tobacco worth seventy pounds sterling per hoghead both in the west Indies and that is our object in taking them off. This deponent further states that he had much conversation with many other of the British officers besides Capt D'Orme to wit Capt. Wainwright, Capt John Amistead, Capt Ramsey and that all of them maintained the same language about the sale of Negroes and tobacco and Col. Brown and to Genl. Ross used the same language and that several of the officers officers and must have heard this language from each other as they were sometimes more than one present at a time all shown agreeing that the Government was to know nothing of the matter. This deponent further states that a great many of the British officers, seamen and soldiers were at his house and that many of them staid from Monday until Saturday

Sworn to before me the subscriber an associate Judge of the first judicial district of the State of Maryland, by the deponent John H. Brown, this fourth day of April eighteen hundred and fifteen -

Daniel Clarke