taken on the agreement thereon endorsed
Mrs. Elizabeth Hall answers to the first
Interrogatory. That she did hire Negro
Ester the petitioner from Capt. Thomas
Spragg in the year 1810. and that she was
with her about one year and that after
the death of Capt. Spragg she paid the wages
due for said hire to Mr. Charles Houston
who brought an order from Otho Spragg
(which order was expressed to be for the use
of Maria Houston) 2d. Capt. Thomas Spragg
told Mrs. Hall in a conversation they had
together about the time aforesaid That
he intended Negro Ester for Maria Houston
and on her advising him to hire her to her
husband who was a free man Capt. Spragg
said no he would not for that she was
good for nothing enough already and if
he hired her to her husband she would
make all her family as worthless as
her self Capt. Spragg further observed that
he had no thought of hiring her to any
body but he would talk with Mrs. Spragg

and if on consulting her she thought it
advisable Mrs. Hall might have said
Ester and that a few days after Otho Spragg
came up and let this Deponent know
she could have said Ester for 24$ per
year — The within Statement will be
admitted in Evidence on the petitions
for freedom now depending against Otho
Spragg and standing for trial this Term
so far as the same contains matters
that can properly be offered in evidence
Frederick Aug. 3d. 1813. R. B. Taney

The Defendant by his Counsel objected to
the reading of said deposition But the
Court were of Opinion that the same
was legally admissible in evidence
and the same was read to the Jury To
which Opinion of the Court the Defendant
by his Counsel prayed leave to except
and that the Court sign and seal this his
Bill of exception which is accordingly done
this 24th. day of August in the