and affix the Seal of my office this Seventh day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and thirty one

Test D M Perine Register of Wills for Baltimore County"

and proved that the slave therein called Elijah Williams was the petitioner himself; and also proved that since the death of Mr Belt the testatrix, Thomas H Belt person sold the Petitioner to the Defendant David Stuart as a slave for life, and that on the day the petition was filed in this case the said Williams was over twenty eight years old.

The Defendant then to support the issue on his side called said Thomas H Belt as a competent witness, whereupon he was objected to by the petitioner, as the vendor of said petitioner to the defendant, whereupon the following release was executed by the Defendant to the said Belt

"Negro Elijah Williams & David Stuart

In Baltimore City Court Petition for Freedom. For value received I do hereby release to Thomas H Belt of the City of Baltimore all claim demand or rights of action or actions whatsoever which I may now or hereafter have against him his executors or assigns growing out of my purchase from him of the said Elijah Williams by reason of any warranty of title express or implied attached to said purchase & sale, and also to all damages costs claim or demands of whatsoever kind or nature may accrue or become due to me from him by reason of any verdict or judgment which may be rendered up for or against me in the above cause. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand & seal this ___ day of September in the year eighteen hundred and fifty one.

Witness G. L. Delany. David Stuart (Seal)"

When the witness was duly sworn and proved that his mother Mrs Catharine Belt about the year 1812 broke up her establishment in Baltimore County, that upon her removal from Baltimore County, she divided several negroes being the major part of her slaves, among her children Richard G Belt, Horatio Belt and himself; that witness determined to go to housekeeping in the City of Baltimore where he at that time resided chiefly on account of his mother, who came to reside with him, that his