

1. All negroes and mulattoes set free since the passage of the law of 1831, chapter 314, to be hired out by the year for two years, with the privilege of choosing their master and going into slavery within the time; and all who refuse to leave the State or go into slavery, to be sold at the end of said two years, slaves for life.

2. All negroes and mulattoes held for a term of service less than slaves for life, to elect within one year after their term is out, either to go into slavery or leave the State, else to be sold slaves for life as above.

3. Any free negro or mulatto convicted of any crime less than capital, to be sold slave for life.

4. All other free negroes or mulattoes not embraced in the above three heads, to be hired out by the year, for five years, with privilege of choosing their masters and going into slavery in that time, or leaving the State; on refusing to do either, to be sold slaves for life; their children, under fourteen, to be subject to the action of parents; over fourteen to be bound till twenty-one years old, then subject to the second division.

We also pray your Honorable Body for an efficient rural police law, with special reference to our slave and free negro population; also, that slaves may become evidence against Abolitionists. We also pray for the passage of a law forbidding the manumission of any slave within this State, by deed, will or otherwise.

We know our legislature has passed many laws on these subjects, but they all fall below a remedy. We believe these remedies will prove effectual, and that nothing short of them will be of any avail.

Your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray, &c.

JOHN E. HAYWARD,
and Others.

Which was referred to the committee on Colored Population.

Mr. Grieves presented a petition from sundry citizens of Dorchester and Caroline counties, praying the passage of a law providing for the sale of a School House therein refunded to, and dividing proceeds of sale equally between Dorchester and Caroline counties;

Which was referred to Messrs. Grieves, McGonigal and Richardson;

Mr. Mountz presented a petition from Patrick Hammill and nineteen other citizens of Allegany county, praying the speedy