

importance, together with my interest in their welfare prompts me to address you, one or two enquires which will materially enlighten, as well as aid their progress in securing comfortable and pleasant homes; and I do not think it improper at this point to say that I have always been connected with the Union party since this unholy rebellion, elevated its monster head, and I was an active member, being the candidate for State's Attorney on that ticket two years ago, which facts you can know by common reputation in my county, by enquiring of Col. John C. Holland, Provost Marshal of our District, Jno. Bowie, Jr., Provost Marshal of our county, Major Thomas J. Wilson, Annapolis, and by reference to the archives of Provost Marshal Washington city, and from Lieutenant Pearson, Eighth Illinois Cavalry camp, Stoneman ———. This I have deemed prudent that you might know with whom you were communicating, if you deem it worth while to reply.

I would further state that all information imparted to the freedmen is perfectly voluntary and without any charge.

Now to the point :

1st. Does your recent order intend to impose any restriction upon the full, fair and free expression of their wishes and action within legitimate bounds.

2nd. Does not your order simply intend to remove every barrier to a free, full and fair expression of their wishes.

3rd. Does not your order intend that involuntary servitude shall be destroyed, and the fullest scope given for their advancement and progress in their new condition.

Clearly to my mind that must have been your design.— Now it is evident that without a proper person to see to the condition of many, and their contracts and interests, the unscrupulous, the rebel sympathizer and the vagabone will cheat, defraud and ill use them to such an extent that their condition will be more intolerable than when in bondage. This may be easily avoided, and I have no doubt you will provide in time.

Some few of their grievances may be mentioned without as yet a sufficient remedy, for example former masters may claim the service on account of certain benefits conferred during the bondage, children are separated from their parents, the mothers of whom are dead, and the father desiring the custody of his child may be unwilling to commit the trespass as it would be deemed under the law by going after those children.

Mothers whose husbands are dead or out of the State, and who are infirm, may be anxious to put their children in the hands of good guardians to train and educate them.