

Children who have neither mother or father living, according to the interpretation put upon your order by the Orphans' Court of this county can not be bound.

Contracts made for hiring with the freedmen are most generally verbal and not in writing, without the requisite form to make them legal, and therefore voidable, if not void, and a host of other grievances which will be developed in time.— I should be pleased to know if these things can be provided for at once, and if an interview with you or the chief of the Freedman's Bureau in Baltimore, can aid in solving these questions. I shall be pleased to attend when you think fit.

The Provost Marshals are charged with the execution of all plans intended for their relief, but it occurs to me that he must reside at the county seat or have an office there always open, to superintend, provide for and hear all complaints, which if he did, would make such an accumulation of duties, together with his military functions, as would disqualify him from attending to both duties, as an evidence: why General is the Freedman's Bureau established if the military could provide every thing requisite? I am sorry to have entered into the details so much, but you will see by my statements how things stand with us, and I have no doubt the same is true of other localities. The reasons first stated must plead my apology for troubling you, and hoping you will be able to give some relief for the grievances laid bare, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JOHN G. MITCHELL.

*Endorsed*—Asks if the recent order, in relation to the freedmen, intends to impose any restriction upon the full, fair and free expression of their wishes and actions within legitimate bounds. Does not the order intend to remove every barrier to a free, full and fair expression of their wishes.

ELLICOTTS MILLS, *November 4th*, 1864.

MR. PECK:

*Dear Sir*:—Mary Anne Barnes called on me this morning and desired me to become her counsel for her child Julia. I have consented to do so, and I think there is but little doubt