

distance of twenty-five miles, and as the steamer for West River, will leave on Tuesday, the 22d inst., I respectfully solicit your immediate attention to this petition.

P. M. PYFER.

Mr. P. M. Pyfer I have known for the last 20 or 25 years a gentleman in every relation, and personally responsible for anything he may put his name to, and is comatible whenever wanted within a reasonable time.

I take great pleasure in recommending him to your consideration.

THOS. S. SUMWALT.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 21st, 1864.

*Endorsed*—“States a colored woman residing in his family, has two children, formerly slaves of Mr. Solon Linthicum. That the mother authorized him to bring the children to her. Mr. Linthicum refuses to give them up. Requests aid in procuring them.”

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DEAL'S ISLAND, SOMERSET CO., MD.,

Nov. 17th, 1864.

To LIEUT. J. C. MULLIGAN :

*Sir* —The recent general order of Major Wallace in reference to the binding of negro children, having been as many of us believe, misconstrued, information is respectfully solicited on the following points :

1st. Does the “order” prohibit the binding of children, whose parents being unable to support them, elect without compulsion, the master or mistress to whom they may be apprenticed ?

2nd. Does said “order” require that all children without parents, or having parents who are unable to support them, shall be transported to the office of the “Freedmen’s Bureau,” when they, without force or threats make choice of masters ?

3d. Does not the “order” apply only to those cases in which *forced* apprenticeships occur, thereby setting aside the