

week before the Court sat, and Mr. Alridge talked about beating of me because I was interceding about my children. When I was over there last Summer he agreed to give me \$100 a year for Charly. Emory is a favorite child, and he agreed to give me \$20 for Emory and his clothes too, before the emancipation and the place is free. He has carried the children out of my reach. When you answer this letter you will direct to No. 259 Montgomery st., opposite Leadenhall, to Nicholas Smallwood. I shall be down home two weeks in December to my mother's, and you will call call and see me.

I remain your affectionate sister,

FRANCIS SMALLWOOD.

Endorsed—“Forwards letter of Francis Smallwood, who states Mr. Harrington holds her children against her wish. Wishes them released, &c.”

DEPUTY PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE,

PRESTON, MD., Nov. 24th, 1864.

MAJOR ESTE :

Fredman's Office,

Sir:—I have the honor to bring to your official notice the case of some colored persons in this county, (Caroline). Mitchell Covey, of the 4th Election district, Coroline county, was the owner of a woman and her two children, until the adoption of the present constitution (new). Some time since Mr. C: let the mother, growing aged, “go to herself,” *i. e.*, go from his service to live with her husband. Mr. Covey still retains her children, one of whom is representd to me to be 23 years old, the other 13. When the 1st of November came, either on that day or the very next, he had both of them bound to him for a term of years by the Orphans' Court of this county *without the parents consent*. The mother and respectable white witnesses assured me that this was done. Hon. C. Davis, 4th Election district, recently elected to the Senate of this State; knowing these facts, and being called upon by the mother, sent her for redress to me as Deputy Provost Marshal of the county. Not having received from higher head quarters of Provost Marshal Department, (1st Congressional District, Maryland,) any specific instructions, and that department not having any to give me; they asked