

might result to myself, this I will not do. These blacks grew up and were the playmates of my children, and will not turn them out of doors until some other provision is made for them. The mother of the most of them has been rhumatic for ten years, and unable to provide for their wants. They all can be gotten from me at any time by your or the Provost Marshal's order. I had forgotten to say that two of the girls have neither father or mother living in this State.

Respectfully,

SEWELL HEPBRON.

*Endorsed*—“States with their mother's consent he has had 12 colored children bound to him, they all can be gotten at any time.”

STILL POND, P. O., KENT Co., MD.,

November 19th, 1864.

MAJOR GENERAL WALLACE:

*Sir*:—About one week since I wrote to Major Este, but have not yet received an answer from him, substantially as follows: That I had bound to me as apprentices twelve negroes that were formerly my slaves, with their mother's consent, ranging from a babe up to sixteen years of age, the girls to serve until eighteen, freedom dues, a new suit of clothes and twenty-five dollars in money, the boys until twenty-one, with a new suit of clothes and fifty dollars in money on their arriving at age, and that I had this done as an act of humanity, as more than half the number is so small, that they are wholly incapable of rendering to me any service whatever, and that if he could do any better part by them than I could do by transferring them to the “Freedman's Rest,” he was perfectly welcome to do so. Thinking perhaps that I ought to have written to you instead of Major Este, I now do so. I have further to say that I had made arrangements with the two mothers of these children, that I would give them the usual wages for women from the first day of November last onward, so that they might be present to take care of their children as formerly, which they also agreed to. But to my surprise, when your order became known to them they became dissatisfied with their condition, and said they were told they must leave me, or else they would be sent away somewhere, they did not know where. So I was forced to comply, and they are now gone to house keeping in a miserable hut without the means of procuring a sufficiency to secure them from abject want this winter, their