

present wants I have supplied myself, but will be unable to do so much longer unless they were in my kitchen.

I should have used restraint to have prevented them from leaving me, but I did not know how far I might infringe on your order by doing so. I should have taken them to the Alms House, but was told by the overseer that that was already filled. Now what I want to know sir, will you or those you have entrusted with these matters take charge of these helpless persons, or shall I be privileged to exercise over them that wholesome authority which is given me by the laws of the State of masters with apprentices. I am now an old man, and in my younger days labored to raise these blacks, my men left me for the army more than a year ago, which left me only three boys, big enough to plow to till my farm imperfectly. I am now left with no body, not even to black my boots or catch a horse, and not labor sufficient in the neighborhood that can be procured by hiring. Mine is not an isolated case, many in my vicinity are in a similar condition. I should have said in its place the mother of these boys is about forty-five years old, subject to frequent attacks of rheumatism, and would have died long ago if she had not been well taken care of in my family, she thinks the hire of her boys will yield her support. In this, she is mistaken, they are too unruly to be governed by her, she has two that are under five years old.

You will please answer this or cause it to be answered that I may know what is your determination concerning the matter, as there is much doubt here how far your order is intended to reach.

Respectfully,

SEWELL HEPBRON.

*Endorsed*—“States with the consent of their mothers he has had 12 colored children bound to him, wishes to know how far G. O., 112, is intended to reach.”

CLARKSVILLE HOWARD Co., Md.,

November 17th, 1864.

*Sir* :—One of my neighbors has a colored woman who is an idiot, she is desirous to stay with her former master, and he is willing to keep her and pay her wages for her services,