

negroes, and I understand that the Orphans' Court have an authority as they say, from the the Governor to bind those of tender years and those that have not the means of support, and their parents are not willing to support. But I understand that they intend to bind out all children, whether their parents are willing or not. This I think a great piece of hardship, as many or nearly all of the colored people wish to be let alone and they can take care of themselves, as there is plenty of work for them to do and they are willing to work. If the court would be governed by the old law of the State, it would not be so hard, but they don't regard the law or justice and bind out as wish, with all of their prejudice to freedom, and as I believe some few persons dictate, who would rather die themselves than slavery should die. I think it would be a great blessing to the poor colored people of this county if they could have that protection which you can afford, by issuing a second order to check the courts in their unjust course.

This letter I write in confidence, as it would not be well for the writer if it was known here in this hot bed of treason. Should you answer this letter, address W. B., Prince Frederick, Md.

Yours, with respect,

JOSEPH HALL.

*Endorsed*—"States that the Orphans' Court is binding out children under pretended authority of the Governor to bind out only those of tender years who have no means of support, but in reality are binding all they can, &c."

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JAMES TOWN, SOMERSET Co., MD.,

November, 26th, 1864.

MAJOR WM. M. ESTE :

*Dear Sir* :—I have seen, that by order of Major General Wallace, you have been appointed to have in charge the Freedman's Bureau, for the protection of the heretofore slaves, which the said order declares to be now free and under special military protection for a time. We have in this, the Eleventh Election District about one hundred fifty to two hundred persons that has been set free by the new constitution, and they all can get their own living if they have a fair chance, and be no expense to the Government. But cer-