

to court, and tell them that the Governor of the State has given them authority to bind all of their children, and that they must choose a master, and in some instances, I have been told that the children of some of the parents have been bound before they knew anything about it. The true condition of things is this, since the adoption of the State Constitution the original owner of slaves cannot do without servants, as they have been used to some one and don't want to pay any person for their labor, and this is the course they have adopted to cheat the poor colored people out of the labor of their children; when in truth the Governor has never given any such authority, because the law is as plain as it can be and the Governor would not attempt to give other authority than the law. As it is you can judge what sort of a court it must be to have to resort to such humbuggery, and a few of the most prominent secessionists seem to have the control of this county, and a man that is known to be a Union man, and a colored person, can be imposed upon as they may choose with impunity. You may believe as you may in regard to what I say, but a Union man in this county can have no fairness shown among a people who disregard the sacred obligations of an oath, and as for the colored people, you can easily imagine how it is when the colored people of this county, after having been set free by the State Constitution should be compelled to bind their children to such a class of people, when many of the children can be hired for money enough to support themselves and parents without their parents aid, and there is not one that I have seen or heard of but objects to the binding of their children, as they can and will take care of them themselves as there is plenty of work and they are willing to do it and of course want to be let alone. Would it not be well to appoint some honest person to see to this affair and report accordingly, and to manage affairs here for the colored people in order that they may not be cheated, as they certainly will be as things now stand. This is confidential as I before stated in a letter to you, as it would not be well for the writer if it was known who gave the information.

JOSEPH HALL.

*Endorsed*—"States the course being pursued by the Orphans' Court in regard to binding out colored children."