

ought to be any delay or difficulty about my getting them unbound. You had better carry this letter to the authority from which I am to have my instructions how to get them. Please dispatch the business as soon as possible, as I want to come to Baltimore before Christmas if I can. It would be well to state also, that Chambers refused to obey the order of the Provost Marshal, when he gave an order for their release. Since the adoption of the Constitution, which liberates all that was bound contrary to the consent of their parent or parents, if it should be necessary to refer to the Constitution, it can be found in the 24th Article of the Bill of Rights, which says, "that hereafter in this State there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except in punishment for crimes whereof the person shall have been duly convicted, and all persons held to service or labor are hereby declared free," therefore it will be seen that they are liberated because it is involuntary servitude.

Your compliance with the foregoing will oblige your devoted daughter.

MARY DARE.

Answer this as soon as possible.

P. S.—I think it be well for the poor colored people of this county, if General Wallace could know that the Orphans' Court of this county is in session daily for the purpose of binding colored children, and I have been told by good authority, that the persons who want children bound to them, tell the parents of children that the laws compels them to be bound out, and they know no better, and so they tell them they must be bound, and there is not one that I have heard of yet giving their consent to it; that is the way they cheat the poor parents out of their children when they are entitled to their labor themselves. I think there ought to be some stop put to it. Attend to this business as soon as possible. M. D.

Col. W. E. W. Ross, 34 *South street*.

BALTIMORE, *December 26th*, 1864.

COL. ROSS :

*Dear Sir*:—Whereas, the children of Israel Dare and Mary his wife, (G. W. Dare, M. E. Dare, Georgina Dare, minors,) has been bound out to service without my consent or wife's knowledge to a certain Mr. George Chambers. I most respectfully solicit your interference, so as my children can be reduced from servitude.

I am perfectly acquainted with Israel Dare, colored, and am fully convinced the above statement is correct.

Yours very respectfully,

JAS. L. TONGUE,