

clerk in the Register's office told me this day that your order was not obeyed, that masters who had coloured children bound to them and those who had not got them bound, both alike held on to the children in many instances, and would not give them up to their parents; now Sir, if these things are so, what is to be done; is slavery still to predominate, and the poor that cannot help themselves to be crushed under the Iron tread of slave holders. All that these poor creatures or the few friends they have, can do, is to tell you or other military authorities of these acts; when will such acts of outrage meet with that punishment which they deserve.

With much respect,

I am truly yours,

JAMES MURRAY,

*Post Master, New Town, Md.*

*P. S.*—Another name I had liked to have forgotten, an old coloured man who lives in District No. 2, without any assistance. J. M.

*P. S.*—Since I closed the above communication to you, another application has been made to me by Susan Porter, a colored woman belonging to Whittington Polk, one of the Commissioners of Somerset county for her children, poor creatures they have no one to go to and they come to me, as if I was in your place. This man Polk has three of her children and he will not give them up to her; she called on him last night for them and he told her, he would not give them up to her; she has got homes for them of her own choice, and if he would give them up to her she could realize something for their hire to help her raise her younger children on, for she has six children to work for, and her husband John Porter is in the Army fighting for the liberties of this fiend in human shape; will not the military deliver these little ones, whom civil law refuses to protect. Please let me hear from you for their sakes.

As ever yours,

JAMES MURRAY.

*Endorsed*—“Statements in relation to the binding out of free colored children on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.”