

There is no disposition on the part of the people of this section to violate or evade orders issued by the military authorities, but in order to be able to conform to them, it is necessary that we should first understand what they mean. Masters and mistresses of apprentices of the class who are now free, heretofore slaves, do not know what is their duty or what are their rights, whether they should endeavor to fulfill the obligations assumed by them in the indentures of apprenticeship, and whether they are entitled to the services of the apprentice for the usual term, or whether the contract is nullified and made void by the military order. We also desire to be informed whether it is intended in the future to altogether forbid the binding of the class of persons referred to, or if any restrictions or conditions are to be connected with it.

In conclusion I remain,

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

LITTLETON P. FRANKLIN.

Endorsed—"Requests information with regard to the order lately issued, respecting forced apprenticeship of colored children."

CHESTERTOWN, KENT Co., MD.

Dear Sir:—At the request of the parents of two colored boys, who were seized previous to the rebellion under the vagrant act, I write you to inquire the necessary proceedings by which their freedom may be obtained. The circumstances are as I understand as follow :

The man, Reese was in good circumstances, having at the time his children were seized, about 50 bushels of corn, 5 barrels of pork, 5 shoats, 1 barrel of meal and 1 of flour; he also owned a small tract of land and an oyster boat, with necessary accoutrements for oystering. The boys were fine and healthy, always well dressed and were wanted by many of the farmers in the neighborhood, and being refused possession of the boys, resorted to the Vagrant act to obtain possession of them. The old man carried \$50 in cash to Chestertown and offered it to a lawyer to procure their release, but the old man being dark complected, was laughed at.