

against them, or either of them &c and  
whereas the said Negroes by their Petition  
supported by respectable testimony,  
set forth a circumstance which greatly  
extenuates their offence: To wit. that the  
aforesaid Edwards had bought them  
of a certain D. Berlegand of Frederick  
County aforesaid against their will  
and enreaty for the purpose of  
taking them into Kentucky and  
from thence as they understood to  
transport them to New Orleans. That  
they have a Mother and other near  
relations living near Frederick Town  
with or near whom they have constantly  
resided, and that upon the said  
Edwards preparing to force them away  
one of them in a fit of desperation  
at the prospect of being separated  
forever from his relations, resisted  
and struck the said Edwards, and  
it being represen by respectable au-  
thority that the said Negroes Basil