

Executive Department
Annapolis
September 8th 1853

20

Bradley S. Johnson Esq
State Attorney for Frederick County

Sir:

By direction of the Governor I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th instant, recommending a Writ Habeas Corpus for each of two slaves of Mrs. Ann. Hall, charged with felony, on condition that they be sold out of the State &c &c.

Such applications are frequent; and the Governor has found it to be necessary, for the proper protection of slaves for a term of years, to require the master or mistress to file an Affidavit (with the proper Certificate of the Clerk of the Circuit Court attached) in which it must be specifically averred 1st that the slave is a slave for life. 2nd that it is the wish of the owner that the Writ Habeas Corpus be granted on condition that the slaves be sold out of the State. The last averment is not held to be absolutely necessary, as there might be cases in which the Governor would act even against the wishes of the owner. In ordinary cases, however, he requires that the Affidavit contain the averments specified.

The Affidavit must sufficiently describe the slaves, and plainly set forth the averments.

Before the Writs, required by the 19th Section of Article II of the Constitution, can be issued copies of the Indictments and docket entries, or (if none have been as yet found) copies of the proceedings on Commitment must be filed in this Department.

Very Respectfully

Yours Obt. Servt.

John Randolph Quinn
Secretary of State

Tuesday Department Sept. 3rd 1853

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of August 31st together with a statement from the Comptroller of the Treasury Department