Philadelphia March 6th 1851

Dear Sir

As your Legislature has adjourned, I must acknowledge your favor of the 18th Dec, which I would have done previously, but for the information it conveyed that you were on the point of departure for Annapolis, and the anticipation of another letter from you which would enable me to bring up my accounts to the close of the past year.

It was fortunate that the journey to Maryland was spared me as I have been very much occupied - but it should be understood by all parties that I am always ready to appear before the court the moment the accounts of the estate are prepared for a settlement.

The intention now expressed of taking possession of and selling the time of the children belonging to the estate at public auction, is cer=tainly correct (however unpleasant such a proceeding may be to us) as their expenses are a charge upon the estate - Indeed they would be infinitely better situated under good masters than in the miserable custody of their parents - and the apprenticeship to which they are subjected until 28 years of age, is in fact a benefit to them. The case of the child taken into Delaware, whose service you say will be disputed, requires much caution - I beg you to obtain a written legal opinion on it - I do not believe that Mr Highman knew of the removal of the child from the farm - Bramble could probably prove this - but, out of kindness, he acquiesced in its remaining with the mother, and directed an allowance to be made for it - at least I have the impression that such was the fact - If we can omit prosecuting the claim, without becoming responsible, I undoubtedly am not anxious to enforce it - but, if I am to be answerable, the claim must be prosecuted - This is one of the disagreeable positions in which I am placed by the dis=position some few persons have exhibited. Very probably the expense of

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