got a man to swear before the last Magistrate that he only sold his right to Satchell and not for life. On this Oath the Magistrate discharged Howard. which the Lawyer here says was illegal as the Magistrate was bound to make him recognize. — This Lawyer however says that there is no law which will Effect either Satchell or Howard — I shewed him the Law of 1817 which he says refers only to Persons who are not Bona fide residents — but as Howard and Satchell are both residents and the latter is only an Agent for James Polk another resident of the State the law does not apply to them — This I think looking strange as the law was evidently intended to prevent them being sold for a longer time than they had to serve & also their transportation out of the state. — By this Construction of the law a resident can carry on this inhuman traffic without any fear of molestation

The Lawyer however expressed some doubt but that Polk if he sells them out of the state will be amenable to the law. —

I however contended that it could be proved that Satchell was a notorious negro buyer employed by other purchasers (non residents) as well as by Polk who is a resident. and that is all I have to do. wish to prove that he has been and is now known to be a purchaser for others as well as Polk and that he will engage to buy negroes for any Non Resident at $10 a piece for each negro he buys. — My Opinion is that this is all that is necessary to prove and it will the law will bear on him & if on him equally on Howard — The Lawyer contend I must prove that Satchell bought this identical girl for a Non Resident. and not that he is known as a purchaser for Non Residents generally

If this be a proper Construction of the law then indeed is it a nullity & never can be Enforced. Will you oblige me so far as to get the Opinion of some of your Lawyers on the Subject & let me know as soon as possible There is a law of 1809 as well as 1817 on the subject — Should you not be able to attend to this please get my friend McKenney to attend to it — I also wish to know ~~[illegible]~~ your Society furnish any funds to Employ a Lawyer to prosecute the Case if it can be maintained as I am not able myself —

Respectfully
Jas. Boyland

Aug. 1st

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

2. 1834--1835

1835