Dr. Sir

I have just learnt that a certain James Seward of this County went up this morning in the Steam boat Maryland to your City for the purpose of catching a number of Negroes who have been free for a number of years, and the only plea I understand set up is an informality or illegality in the deed of Manumission –

I am told that it was executed perhaps in 1806 and according to the law at that time must be recorded within 12 mos. It was not however acknowledged before a Magistrate till upwards of 12 mos. afterwards and was recorded immediately afterwards – The man who freed them considered them free and when he died took no notice of them in his will –

After so long a time it comes out that the Manumission ought to have been executed within 12 mos. and on this flimsy pretence they claim them, –

I have examined the Manumission this morning – the informality is this. it was executed on a certain day of the month in 1806 – On a cer=

Letter 1st July 1836
Chancellorsville
To Moses Stephenson

Mr. Stephenson
Baltimore
Note

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836