last day of the month 1807 it was acknowledged before a magistrate who scratched out the month & day of the month but neglected to scratch out the year and insert seven — However in the acknowledgement ~~the~~ before the magistrate the time is right — I have conversed with several gentlemen on the subject & every one unhesitatingly declare that no jury under Heaven would give a verdict against them —

As Howard is now in Balt.^e in search of them I have thought it likely that he would sell them to some human chaser there as he is not considered too good to do so. — There being a writ issued against him yesterday for Ellis a girl who is entitled to her freedom —

I wished farther to know that should he seize any of them and a petition is filed for their freedom would the Protection Society of your City so far stand their friend as to meet the expense of employing an Attorney &c.

The Negroes have been free for 20 years & have so acted — but notwithstanding all this & every one believes they are free, so much are they opposed to Emancipation here that no one scarcely would engage in their behalf — I am willing & cheerfully render my services in their behalf —

Write by return of mail or hasten in haste

Jos. Bryan

P.S. — I forgot to request your interference so far as to have a look out for Howard & if he should have any to stop them — you can probably hear from him by inquiry at Jos. Hooper Hans Stone Light Street Wharf or at the New Dock amongst the Eastern Shore men —

Perhaps you might trace him to Woolfolk's a man in town connected with the purchasing has just told me that Howard told him that he should sell them at once to the 1st buyer if he could catch them — You can no doubt ascertain by calling at the Clerk's Office Court House where the bills of sale ought to be recorded

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

3. 1836