Liberia discharged, they seem to have determined to take their own course, to work for whom they please, dress their own ways, & spend their in their own way —

Last week I had to leave home, and go after them a distance of 40 miles, — found them upon the canal in Washington County, whither they had gone contrary to my orders, which cost me about $25 — Thus they have conducted themselves, and are now lodged in prison. Their wages will very little more than cover the expense they have incurred — They are reluctant to go to Africa, and I feel confident will make their escape if not at liberty — I know this from their objections & the hope they have entertained of some arrangement being made by which they might evade the conditions of their freedom.

This Morning I deputed the Revd Mr Smith & Colr Lewis & Mr Tait, to wait upon them, when they propounded the following questions to them and obtained the annexed answers

1 Q Did you belong to Mr N Ritchie late of Talbot Co?
Ans, Yes —

2 Q. Have you been informed by Dr Ritchie & Mr Abbott of the nature of his will concerning you?
Ans, Yes

Q How do you understand it?
Ans If he did not go he would be sold!

Q Will you go to Liberia — or remain here and be sold slaves for life —?
Ans We will go to Liberia

These interrogatories & answers I laid before the Orphans Court this Morning & they have advised me to adopt this course, & concur in the statement & belief that if they are set at liberty, they will make their escape — thinking therefore to rid myself of all responsibility — I desire to know as soon as practicable whether your board will send for them, & keep them at their charges, until the expedition sails. Should there be any ballance of wages in my hands after all the expenses are paid, I will pay over

Very Respectfully
Your's &
Allen T Ritchie

Maryland Historical Society

The Maryland State Colonization Society Papers

II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

1837