it be ascertained, at what time Calvert County Court sets — Wilkinson Esqr. is the judge. As soon as that is known (which I will enquire, of Judge Brewer here on my return from Cambridge) either let the Board employ a lawyer, (or instruct me to act) to go down to Prince Frederick and in the regular legal form pray the court to set aside the ~~de~~ original indentures granted by the Orphans Court, on the ground to be set forth in the petition, that such decision whereby said indentures were granted, was void ab initio, or is voidable, under the Act of 1831, which Act gives the right of freedom to manu'd slaves, but gives the right of freedom conditionally & not absolute. In the form, ~~&~~ a writ of habeas corpus should be prayed, to be issued by the judge of the County Court, to bring the slaves before him; this would secure their presence in open court, by the Sheriff, as no matter so ever how much Mr Dalrymples might see proper physically or legally, quasi, or otherwise, to interpose obstacles where the Act was the Board, he would not dare, nor no one else to thwart the action of the Court. The slaves then being brought forward by process issued under judge Wilkinsons eye, the question that would come up, would be not whether these lawyers are entitled to their fees or not, ~~not~~ no such thing, but whether the Orphans Court's decision whereby they become servitors to Messrs Dalrymple and Bowie, should

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1848