the conditions of the act of 1831. This would have prevented the Orphans Court from binding them.

Or, otherwise, the Orphans should have refused the indentures, because by binding, they made the slaves competent to contract for the payment of the fees incurred in pleading their right under the deed, by their lawyers.

Notwithstanding what has already been done by the Orphans Court, I am of the opinion that the court would hear the case de novo.

Two things then you will perceive have operated to prevent me carrying out my instructions in this case,

First.

The amount (definitely understood) of the Sheriffs Fee —

Second.

The permit just granted by the Orphans Court.

In your answer to this letter here, by Tuesday next, inform me upon these two points. I shall take up the Charles Co. case next, and hope I may succeed in that. I have a queer case, which I stumbled over, on my road to P. Fred'ck now in existence in Anne Arundle, something like Smiths case. As soon as I settle Jennifers case, and return here and examine the records (deed) I will communicate it in extenso. It is decidedly rich. — as crooked as one as Smiths. I'll straighten

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II. Correspondence Received
A. Letter Books

10. 1847--1848--1849

1848