

My dear father

Enclosed is the manuscript
which you might have had long since but I
was endeavouring to convince myself you were right
in yr ideas of conditional freedom & failing to do that I
send it as it is - If they were bad I knew it would destroy
their right to Liberty - How long would they remain with
you? or if they thought you or any white people were
to be the judges of that fact - I have embraced the
issue of Anne & Henry as it was a proper contingency
but should you desire their issue to be free from their
birth then you can copy the paper over again
leaving out that part between
the pencil marks I insert
in lieu of it, the words
"free from the day of their birth"

I had I not so arranged ~~it~~ their issue born
whilst they were slaves would have also
been slaves, which I presume you did
not intend. If you make no allusion
in it you can efface the pencil marks
insert Henry's name wherever it is wanting - I do not know
it - Sign it in the presence of two persons in town
acknowledge it & let it be recorded in Westminster
with Willis within six months. I think that
in consideration that the girls may have children before
free, the expense & trouble of whom will fall on the
family the time of their servitude might also be 27 yrs
or the boys 27 & the girls 25 as the latter sooner is of use
in small domestic matters - their issue again is another
consideration. Should it not please you let it
be returned with notes & I will attend to suit.

We are all well
Yrs in haste

Birnie, Jr