

... I could not see all my fellow citizens, as I am compelled to wind up my business of last court by the election; otherwise there might be just grounds of complaint against me. I hope that my late affliction will be a sufficient apology to those of my fellow citizens whom I have failed to visit, as it was my intention, when I commenced the canvass, to see every voter in the county, if possible.

I will now proceed to give the facts of this awfully alarming case of un-official conduct, of which I am charged of committing, and the people, as impartial jurors, will determine whether I intended a "speculation or fraud," or was endeavoring to assist an unfortunate female, lawfully to redeem her last negro out of nine, which were sold in the short space of three years, to pay her husband's debts. The charges are, 1st: That I had sold E. Curtis' negro woman and child three times, and caused them to be bid off and told the purchaser *not to pay for them*, with a view of finally getting them at a reduced price myself; which I pronounce basely false, as will appear from the certificate of P. W. Johnson, W. L. Lanier and E. Curtis. 2d: That I had first sold said negroes for good money, and told the attorneys I had sold them for Union money, which is also incorrect; as will appear from the certificate of R. H. Patisillo; which will also show that I paid the money before the last sale of said negroes. This transpired last March 12 months ago, and is lately started for no other purpose, it would seem, but to try to defeat my election, which will be more apparent by examining the appended certificates. It is true that I did agree for Mr. P. W. Johnson to bid off the woman and child for Mrs. Curtis, under the provisions of the woman's law of your State, and wait for the money until the next sale day; by my keeping the woman and child in my possession until that time, or the payment of the money, as I was not compelled to pay over the money until the next court. From what Mrs. Curtis and some of her friends stated, little or no doubt rested on my mind that she would be able to realize a sufficient amount of money to redeem her favorite servant, before or by next sale day. This she failed to do; and the next day of sale the negro and child were again offered for sale (all the plaintiffs present) and they were struck off to C. E. Matthews. Mr. Matthews was disappointed in getting some money, which he expected from a sale on the same day and he failed to pay for them, and left them with me, with instructions to let any person have them by paying the amount of his bid, if they would do so before he got the money to pay for them. Mr. John Gerathers said he would trade for them, if they pleased his lady. I sent them over, and upon examination the negro woman proved to have the scalled

... I wanted an interest in the sale; I told him I did not, that all I wanted was the money back that I had paid out, and which I failed to realize by \$54.

You can judge, fellow citizens, from the facts set forth in the above cases, (which no man can dispute and tell the truth) whether I intended "speculation and fraud," or whether all the difficulty which followed this case, has not arisen out of the fact that I was endeavoring, as far as the law would admit, to befriend an unfortunate lady.

I would only add that should I be the choice of the Freemen of Marshall, I will endeavor to discharge the duties of the office, to the best of my ability, with due regard to the interest and feelings of both debtor and creditor.

Your obedient servant
WYATT EPPES.

Holly Springs, Oct. 7th, 1841.

"This is to certify that through the request of Edward Curtis, I agreed to bid off a Negro woman of E. Curtis' for the purpose of giving Mrs. Curtis the opportunity of paying the purchase money and taking the title in her own name, under the provisions of the woman's law. Myself and Mr. Curtis went to the Court House and saw Mr. Eppes, the Sheriff in the case, and made an arrangement to that effect; Mr Curtis stated to myself and Mr. Eppes, that Mrs. Curtis had assurances of getting the money from some of her relations in Alabama in the course of 8 or 10 days. Mr. Eppes then remarked that I could bid off the negroes, and he would keep them in his possession until the next day of sale, and if Mrs. Curtis failed to raise the money by that time, he would be compelled to sell them again, as the money must come; but he would not hold me responsible, as I bid the negroes off for the benefit of Mrs. Curtis. Before or on the next day of sale Mr. Eppes came and asked me if Mrs. Curtis had succeeded in getting the money to pay for her negroes. I informed him she had failed, that he would have to sell them again, which he did. I think my bid for them was about \$700, so far as myself and Mr. Eppes was concerned in the sale of the negroes, there was nothing like speculation in view. We made the arrangement alone for the benefit of Mrs. Curtis, whose property had all been sold to pay her husband's debts, not having one solitary cent for a support." Aug 1st, 1841.

P. W. JOHNSON.

The following certificate will show my intention in this case, whether it was humanity, fraud or speculation.
"I called on W. Eppes, Deft. Sheriff a few days after he had bid off a negro woman and child belonging to E. Curtis, to P. W. Johnson, to know if I could buy them as I understood he had not paid for them. Mr. Eppes said

ter the thirty-first day year of our Lord one dred and forty-one, paid to each of the S Illinois, Alabama, Louisiana, Arkansas, and above what each of tled to by the terms ed into between them upon their admission sum of ten per centu ceeds of the sale of the subsequent to the day a within the limits of e respectively: *Provided*, T ed to the said States, in no wise affected or of any sums which ha shall be hereafter, appli or continuance of the that the disbursements remain, as heretofore. per centum fund prov with several of the said Sec. 2. *And be it* after deducting the said what, by the compact tofore been allowed to the residue of the nett proceeds shall be asc from the gross proceed of the year for the foll and expenses on acc Land Office: expenses lands; salaries and exo general's office; salaries lowances to the registe five per centum to be public lands of the Uni situated; which shall b the said thirty first da be divided among the the Union and the Dis the Territories of Wisc idis, according to their representative population; last census, to be appl of the said States to see Legislature may direct distributive share to Columbia shall be ent to free schools, or edu tions, as Congress may also. That nothing ha construed to the propo tions for a transfer of the same) to the Stat he, or to make such fo public lands, or any p may deem expedient. Sec. 3. *And be it* several sums of money tury as the nett prod of the lands shall be