



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

North Carolina Assistant Commissioner, Letters Received, Entered in Register 2, W-Y, Part 1

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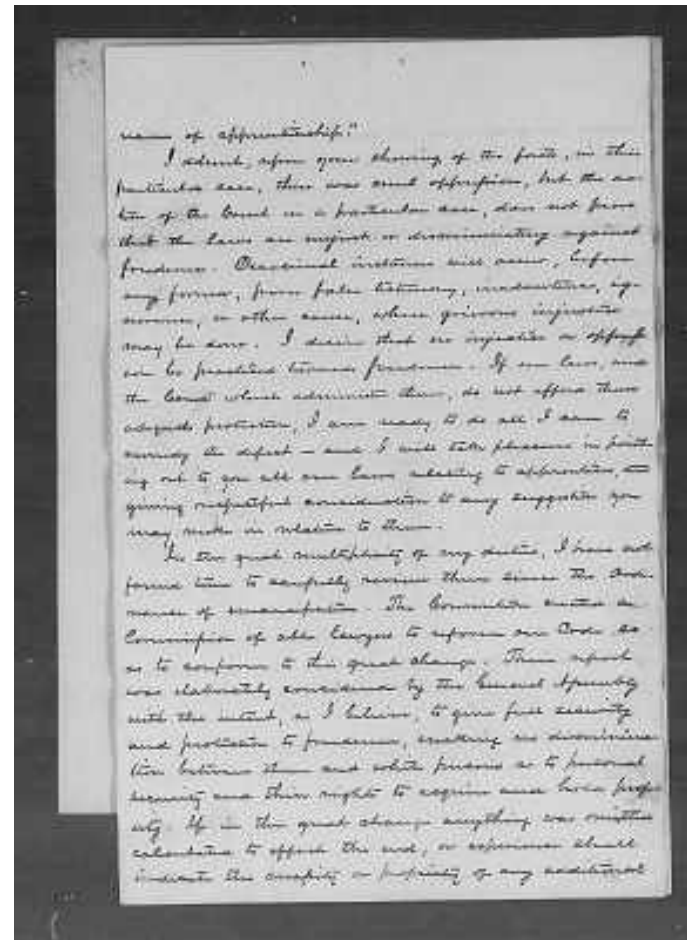
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name of apprenticeship."

I admit, upon your showing of the facts, in this particular case, there was cruel oppression, but the action of the Court in a particular case, does not prove that the laws are unjust or discriminating against freedmen. Occasional instances will occur, before any forum, from false testimony, inadvertence, ignorance, or other cause, where grievous injustice may be done. I desire that no injustice or oppression be practiced towards freedmen. If our laws, and the Courts which administer them, do not afford their adequate protection, I am ready to do all I can to remedy the defect - and I will take pleasure in pointing out to you all our laws relating to apprentices, and giving respectful consideration to any suggestion you may make in relation to them.

In the great multiplicity of my duties, I have not found time to carefully review them since the ordinance of emancipation. The Convention created a Commission of able lawyers to reform our Code so as to conform to this great change. Their report was elaborately considered by the General Assembly with the intent, as I believe to give full security and protection to freedmen, making no discrimination between them and white persons as to personal security and their rights to acquire and hold property. If in this great change anything was omitted calculated to affect the end, or experiences shall indicate the [???]ity or propriety of any additional



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