Baltimore 9 mo 8. 1869

My dear friend
Samuel M Janney.

I will now continue my letter of yesterday & tell thee what we Md friends & the freedmen. My letter of 4 mo last was so very full upon both these subjects that I need only now speak on special points.

The Freedmen are passing thro a transition state & it is a trying ordeal. I do not mean physically as much as morally - the good & industrious are rising to the surface, & the bad & idle are sinking - they are the children of Adam, & it was to be expected that they would have to fight that battle, & we must continue to help them to do it. Their average condition shows a steady material & moral elevation - due largely to the support of the benevolent & religious organizations of our land & yours - I mean by "yours" Gr Britain & Ireland. There has been much said about labor - the crops of this year in the old slave states are poured into the year before the war will conclusively settle that point. I was told at the South last month by an ex-slave holder, who was no friend of the blacks, that the present system of labor was cheaper than the last - for said he, three of my neighbors, who never saved a dollar in cash before the war, laid by last year the respective sums in cash of $2500. $1500 - $2200 -