

Versailles Ky Jan 16<sup>th</sup> 1868.

Col Hart Gibson

Frankfort  
Ky

Dear Colonel,

Enclosed find petition signed by the County Judge, and all the justices who were present at court, in relation to a bill introduced by you at the request of Judge Steete, for the payment of some of "the negro tax money" to various negro schools taught last year. — <sup>in Woodport</sup> The petition was very hastily and most inartistically drawn, but enough can be collected from it to see that the court are unanimously opposed to the passage of the bill.

From all the information we can gather on the subject, it appears that the schools in question were established by, and were under the control of the "Freeman's Bureau".

and that the Teachers were women imported  
by him from Lexington and paid \$15.00 per  
month by the Government, — the negro par-  
tens made up an additional \$5.00 per  
month and boarded the women. — When  
the schools were established the negroes  
made no attempt to bring themselves within  
the provisions of the school laws but pre-  
ferred proceeding under the Bureau.

The County Court have to-day made  
provisions for having free negro schools  
taught in various parts of the County  
and wish to and will reserve a sufficient  
fund out of the "negro money" for that  
purpose, but they are unwilling to be com-  
pelled to pay \$385.00 (which we hear is the  
amt embraced in the bill) to these "Bureau"  
negro women who have already been over-  
paid for their services. We don't know  
(nor could we learn to-day) the exact provis-  
ions of the bill, but the Court seems opposed  
to any legislation in regard to their duties under  
school laws — Court is in session, and please advise us  
when the ad valorem tax bill will be passed through

The senate - You must really excuse  
me for writing at length as I have some  
but as the <sup>or to the bill may</sup> opposition ~~might~~ appear  
strange to you. I thought it best to  
give you some of the reasons for this  
feeling -

Your truly in h. u.

To R. Meathouse

The bill <sup>was</sup> drafted by Judge Steeter  
and del. ~~by~~ by Capt George - The  
Captain is now in favor of the arrangement  
made by the county court and opposed to the  
passage of the bill -