

Pleas pleaded by James and Polly persons of colour to a certain return made to a writ of Habeas Corpus directed to Hyacinthe Lapelle from the Circuit Court of the County of Knox and State of Indiana, bearing date the 15th day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and eighteen, and made returnable before the Honourable Thomas W. Blake at his Chambers in Vincennes on the first Tuesday in August there next ensuing the date thereof -

Hyacinthe Lapelle vs. James and Polly persons of colour } And the said James a person of colour
} by Jenny a person of colour, his mother,
} who is admitted here as natural guardian
} of the said James, to defend for the
said James who is an infant under the age of twenty one years, comes and defends the wrong and injury, when and so forth, and answers unto the matters and things contained in the said return of the writ of Habeas Corpus made by the said Hyacinthe Lapelle, and says, that he ought not to be bound or charged or in any manner held to service by virtue of said supposed indenture mentioned in said return by the said Lapelle, because he says that the said James at the time of making said supposed indenture in the said return mentioned was an infant within the age of twenty one years, to wit, of the age of seventeen years, to wit at the County of Knox and State of Indiana aforesaid, and that the said James is ready to verify, wherefore he prays judgment if he ought to be charged bound or in any manner held to service by virtue of said supposed indenture in said return mentioned &c.

And for a further plea in this behalf the said James according to the form of the statute in such case made and provided says, that he the said James to be charged, or bound, or in any manner held to service, in virtue of said supposed indenture in the said return mentioned by the said Lapelle ought not because he says that he the said James at the time of making the said indenture in said return mentioned to wit ^{on the} sixteenth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand

