

him I will try to be as good as I can be. He says I am learning fast. I am soon going to school, and I will try to improve all the time I have. I have already though learnt a great many useful things. I milk three cows every morning and at night. Please answer my letter soon, for I want to hear from you all.

J. M.

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FREDERICK Co., Dec. 4, 1865.

Boys:—I take this opportunity to let you know that I am well, and hoping that you are the same, and the Managers also. I am coming down to see you all on Christmas. I shall be glad to hear the band play when I come. I have heard two or three bands play since I have been up here, but none to beat the Refuge band. I heard that your band was going to have a concert at Washington. I hope that they will try to do their very best. O what a great thing it is to be a good player in a band! We have a very fine school. I have attended two-quarters, and I expect to go to the third one. I sing bass and carry my part very well. I am very thankful to Mrs. L. and Mr. Deems for their kind instruction to me, I have a very good home. I like Mr. and Mrs. W. very much indeed. They are very kind to me. I am still trying to make a man of myself. I go to church every other Sunday. I attended Sunday school every Sunday until it closed, and I am going to-day school for the winter, soon, and I am going to try my very best. We are done husking corn, and we are done plowing also. I love to live in the country very much. We have had a fine crop of corn this season, our wheat crop not so good this year as last.

W. H. N.

(This boy's home antecedents were of the very lowest character. He was a member of the band at the Refuge, and therefore his interest in music. His master gives him the highest character.)

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W. VIRGINIA, Nov. 1865.

Mr. R. has just read me your letter, making inquiry about my health and requesting me to write to you, which request I gladly comply with. My health is very good; I have not been sick a day since I have been here. I like my home very much. I would like to see you and my play-mates of the Refuge very much. With many thanks for your past kindness, I subscribe myself, &c.

A. R.