

BALTIMORE, December 15, 1865

I respectfully make application to the Executive Committee of the "Children's Aid Society of Baltimore" to receive M. K. and A. McC. A., who will be respectively ten on January 24, 1865, and seven April 3, 1866. My husband has deserted me. He has done nothing for me since February last, but has given me a great deal of trouble. We were once in very comfortable circumstances; my husband being a gun maker by trade, and we did very well, but took to gambling, which ruined him. I have been trying to get along by aid of a sewing machine, but on account of the high price of room rent and the rent of the machine, I am utterly unable to provide for my children—four in number.

Dr. Thomas is acquainted with my circumstances, and can inform you of my destitution. I would be grateful, therefore, if you would receive these—my daughters.

R. A.

The following letters have since been received from the foster parents of the above children :

P. A., S. Co., Md., July 10, 1866.

MR. PALMER,

Dear Sir :

According to the agreement made last January, I will now write a brief report of M. A. for July. We have no reason in the world to regret having taken Mary—feel so much attached to her that we would not part with her upon any consideration. She, in return, is a very dutiful and affectionate child; and is, I believe, very happy and contented in her new home. She has a kind, amiable disposition, and evinces a desire on all occasions to please those around her. She has expressed herself a number of times as being perfectly delighted with the country, and said she would not live in the city, if she could; but almost always ends in wishing her mother were here.

She has attended school since the first of March until a week ago, when her vacation commenced; shall send her again when school begins. She has a good mind, and has improved a good deal. When she came could read but very little, if any; now can read her school books quite fluently. She is particularly interested in her Sabbath school, which she attends regularly every Sabbath. Judging from the interest she manifests in bits of sacred poetry and fondness for attending church, I think she will be early led to lead a religious life. There is nothing vicious or really wicked in her nature; on the contrary, she is really a very lady-like child, and wins the esteem and admiration of all who see her.

Very respectfully,

S. E. S.