

1st of November liberated her children and the old buggy drew near one cold rainy day, when the lady, arrayed in white lawn muslin sprang out, accompanied by her two little girls in summer clothing without shawl or cloak. She demanded her children, who were given up in the presence of witnesses. The oldest girl, nearly 14 years, reluctantly consented to go, the boy gave his willingly and we are credibly informed that he is now running about the streets of Hagerstown. The youngest girl, Susan Myers Hinsley, of 9 years threw her arms around me weeping bitterly and in the deepest anguish said, "Oh Mitty save me! I cannot go, do not let mamma have me." I laid my hand on her head but could not speak, her very great distress, however, seemed to mortify the mother and she declared she would not take her against her wish, but since we have learned that she has vowed to have her through *blood* and *murder*. Susan is a bright mulatto, very pretty, with straight hair and very intelligent, very anxious to learn to read, which I am teaching her. All three have been instructed in the first rudiments of the Old and New Testaments, Commandments, &c. The elder girl reads her spelling book and the boy had commenced, but not to weary you longer, will you be so kind as to aid me in this distressing case, for I know not what to do. Susan is constantly trying to find places to secrete herself and teasing me almost hourly to know if I am going to let her mother have her, and reproaches Mr. Adams saying, "I will black markeys (masters) boots and do anything for him and he is going to give me up." In vain I have endeavored to convince her of our inability to retain her. As these are times of great imposition and I a stranger to you, if you require it, I can give you references to the most respectable people in Sharpsburg as to the reliability of what I have said in this matter; Mr. and Mrs. Benton, Dr. Biggs, Mr. Hebb, &c. Expecting every day that this woman will put her threats in execution, you will confer a great favor on us by directing us what to do as soon as possible. As Gen. Stevenson has command of this Department it may come under his jurisdiction, in that case please do me the favor to enclose this letter to him.

With much regret to add to your already onerous burdens, believe me, with very great respect, yours, &c.,

M. A. ADAMS.

MAJOR GEN. STEVENSON OR WALLACE.

*Endorsed*—"Writes in relation to colored children in the family who wish to remain, that their parents intend taking them away, asks what to do."