

BALTIMORE, November 14th, 1864.

TO MAJOR WM. B. ESTE, A. D. C.,

In charge of Freedmen's Rest :

*Respected Sir* :—Through the kindness of a friend, I am enable to make a written statement asking your assistance, if need be, or your advice. Last April, my child was taken from me and sold to Mr. Olville McGill, living about thirteen miles on the Washington Road, a short distance from Gen'l Tyler's Head Quarters, Relay House.

Being extremely anxious to see my child, I engaged with Mr. Henry Smith, livery stable keeper, on Eutaw Place, corner of Dolphin street, to convey me to the above farm for the sum of ten dollars. I had not been on the above place five minutes, not even seeing my child, when I was ordered off with a threat that if ever I set my foot on his place again he would shoot me, and he also threatened Mr. Smith, who at the time took note in his memorandum book, with date and words made use of, stating to Mr. McGill that at some future time he might probably make use of it. As the State of Maryland has declared her to be free, I her natural guardian, feel desirous to have possession of her, but from the above threat am fearful of making the attempt to regain her, and would, if consistent with your duties, ask your interposition and advice so that I may once more obtain my child, which I have been told has been very badly treated since she left me. At that time she had good under and outside clothing, but since, as I am informed, has become almost naked and shoeless and thereby caused me many sleepless hours and uneasiness of mind. If you should render the assistance as prayed for I shall be under many obligations and will ever hold you in remembrance.

Respected sir,

Yours most respectfully,

Signed for LAVINA BROOKS,

at present living with Dr. Dunbar,

No. 151 Lombard St, near Honover.

[The girl's name is Susan Brooks, about 10 years of age.]

*Endorsed*—“States Mr. Oliver McGill holds her child as a slave and asks that it be returned to her.”