

food or shelter. From that time until now I have provided for myself and children without any assistance from her whatever. Now it appears that a few days ago they have passed a law here, forcing the mothers to bind her children to their old masters until they are 21 for males, and females 18 years old. My children were forced from me by constables and I proceeded to the Court House and protested against such an unnatural act but was put out of the court room, and would not even be allowed to speak. Now sir, if there is any way that you can advise me to get my children, you will confer on me a great favor indeed.

Colonel Birney told me at the time that my husband left should I be ill-treated at any time, to report to Head Quarters, although I have been ill-treated different times, I put up with it until now, but my children being taken away from me and bound in slavery to my old mistress, I cannot rest until I know whether it is a lawful proceeding or not. I enclose a letter to my husband, which you will have the goodness to forward to him, his name and address is Charles Robbins, Co. B. 39th Reg't, U. S. C. T. Hoping that you will have the goodness to look into this matter and assist me,

I remain, yours respectfully,

LINDAY ROBBINS.

*Snow Hill, Pocomoke River, Md.*

*Endorsed*—“States that her three children were recently forcibly taken from her by constables, and bound to labor until their majority to their former owner. She also states that when her husband enlisted a year ago in the 39th U. S. C. T., she was driven from the house of her mistress with her children in a destitute condition, and that since that time she has supported them and herself by her own efforts. She asks that she may be assisted to obtain them.

BALTIMORE, *November 30th, 1864.*

Mrs. Anne Ross hereby certifies that she has no knowledge whatever of the child Duly Purnell, neither has her daughter, nor has any of them had any intercourse with her since her abduction. That there is none of her clothes at her house and that any person may search her house when they please.