

WASHINGTON, D. C., *Nov. 24th, 1864.*

MAJOR WM. M. ESTE, A. D. C.,

In charge Freedman's Bureau, Baltimore, Md.

*My Dear Sir:*—This will be handed you by E. C. Branch, recently of Memphis, Tennessee, where for the last year he has conducted one of the largest and most successful schools yet organized among the freed people. He is an accomplished professional teacher, and wholly devoted to the education of the ex-slaves.

He was assigned to this city by the Northwestern Freedmen's Aid Commission, in whose service he is, but finds it so difficult to secure suitable rooms for the first class school we design to open here, that I have advised him to postpone operations here for the present, and proceed at once to Baltimore to place his services at your disposal. He will be glad to answer any questions you may desire to ask, and to enter upon duty in your department (if at all) in entire subordination to your official guidance, congratulating you, Sir, upon your happiness in controlling a Freedman's Bureau in Free Maryland.

Believe me very truly your friend,

JACOB R. SHIPHERD,

*Secretary and Acting Treasurer.*

*Endorsed*—“States Mr. E. C. Branch, of the Northwestern Freedman's Aid Commission, has been ordered to Baltimore, that his services are at the disposal of Maj. Este, in charge Freedman's Bureau.”

BALTIMORE, *Nov. 22, 1864.*

Mrs. Mills and her Son, holds my child in slavery, I went there and they ordered me out of the house to-day, and they locked the door and took the key out of the door, and they tell her not to live with me. I want her to come home and go to school, I feel myself perfectly able to support her, she never was in a church in her life and don't know the Lord's prayer. I want her brought to 37 Larews alley, between Mulberry and Franklin streets. She lives at Mr. Ezekiel Mills,