

TOWSONTOWN, *Balto. Co., Md.*

November 30th, 1864.

MAJ. GEN. LEW WALLACE, U. S. A., &amp;c., &amp;c.

*Sir* :—The bearer, Louisa Foster, a colored woman, represents to me that she is sent by you to apply to me as an attorney in regard to her children, George Foster, [aged 9 years,] Henry Foster, [5 years old,] Harriet Stevenson, [7 years old,] who were bound by the Orphans' Court for this county, on the 1st day of November, 1864, to one, Joshua F. C. Talbott, as apprentices, the boys to the age of 21, to learn farming, the girl to the age of 18, to learn sewing and house work. Under the law, the mother should have been present at the time of the binding. I think this will be cause of cancelling the indentures of the court. Unfortunately the court had adjourned about an hour before this woman arrived here to-day, and will not meet again until next Tuesday, when I will apply to have the indentures cancelled, or if this is refused will take the children under a *habeas corpus*. The woman, by her own admission, has never been married. I think Mr. Joshua F. C. Talbott must have been under the impression that the mother of the children was dead, and I am informed that she was represented to the court as being "runaway and her whereabouts not known." I will be much obliged if you will give the woman a letter to me, when she comes again, or communicate with me by mail, if you think it necessary.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

LEWIS H. WHEELER,

*Att'y at Law.*

*Endorsed*—“States the children of Louisa Foster, colored, were bound out by the Orphans' Court. Requests that the General Commanding communicate with him in regard to the release of the children.”

WASHINGTON, *D. C.*,

December 6, 1864.

GEN. WALLACE :

*Dear Sir* :—As a friend to the colored people, the freedmen, and as attorney for the National Freedman's Relief As-