

BALTIMORE, Nov. 29th, 1864.

CON LYANCE:

I write to report to you a case of a little orphan girl now in her twelfth year of age, who formerly belonged to a man by the name of Franklin Newman, and he still holds her as his property refusing to let any one have her. There has been two or three persons who have asked him for the girl. He told them that he would not let any one have her unless I come for her, and if I did he would let me have her, so I happened to be here and heard what he had said. I went over there to get her. But when I got to Mr. Newman's and told him what my errand was, he became very angry, telling me that I could not have her and for me to get off of his farm as soon as I could, he said the court had bound her and that she was his property. He then went into the house and got his gun and sword and pursued me until I got off of his farm. He then went back to the house and sent word to me at church, that had not he to have been kept at home by some one coming to his house, that he intended to have come there and shot me, and that I had better leave there before the next morning, for the county was not large enough to hold us both, that he would shoot me the first place he came up with me.

Mr. Newman lives about the centre of Kent county, between 8 or 10 miles northeast of Chestertown, and about a mile and a half north of Chesterville. He sold the mother of this little Tempy south, when she was about two years old. I worked for him at the time this girl was born and for some time afterwards, and it is on this account that I am interested for the little girl, as she has no one to intercede for her. He said I could not take her unless I could prove that she is my child and that I was married to her mother. That I could not do as it was not so, therefore all that I can do is to report her case to you. As Mr. Newman is known to be a very brutal man, I must ask you to give my brother some protection, as he threatens to whip his wife the first time he meets her out from home.

I am, very respectfully yours,

SAMUEL ELBERT.

*Endorsed*—“Reports that a little orphan who formerly belonged to a man named Franklin Newman, who still holds the child as his property, and states that he went to get the same, but was ordered away from the house and threatened to be shot.”