the possession of Thomas R. Brown, my late master, now living on Madison Avenue, Baltimore.

My oldest daughter Susan, about fourteen years of age, he has now on his farm near Chestertown, and the youngest, eight years of age, in service with his family in Baltimore.

He has refused to let me have my children, saying that the courts have bound them to him. May it please your honor that I am able to provide for and with the aid of my husband the father of them to protect them. Hoping that your honor will aid me to recover them.

I am your most ob't servant,

MARY ANN RAN.

mark

Endorsed—"Requests aid in the recovery of her two children now in the possession of Thomas R. Brown."

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FRIENDS ASSOCIATION IN AID OF FREEDMAN.

Baltimore, 12 Month, 14th, 1864.

Lt. Col. W. E. W. Ross:

Sir:—I beg leave to make the following statement respecting a difficulty in which I am placed in the discharge of my duty, as agent of this association, the principle object of which is to procure homes for the recently freedmen and women of this city. I have many calls from women with children, and not a few of these are soldiers widows, who are willing to work, could their children be taken care of. For some days past I have had more calls than I can supply and have been obliged to find shelter for several houseless, homeless, friendless females, who in this unfriendly weather have neither food nor shelter, and must be provided for. Allow me most respectfully, to suggest the propriety of your using influence to procure for their use, say about twenty rations per day for a week or ten days, and I pledge myself and my