

honor for the careful distribution of the same. I shall endeavor to find shelter for them in the meantime.

I am yours,

Respectfully,

ANDREW MEURHEAD.

*Endorsed*—“Requests to have issued to wives of soldiers and other destitute freedman about 240 rations,” &c.

BALTIMORE, MARYLAND, *Dec. 22d*, 1864.

To COL. RCSS,

Freedman's Bureau, Middle Department:

The undersigned would most respectfully represent that she is a married women about forty years of age, having a husband whose name is Perry Kennard and six children named Susan, Mary, Kitty, Dickey, Olevia and Ann, and that up to the time of the adoption of the present Constitution of the State, myself and children were slaves belonging to Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Woodward, residing at No. 33 Lexington Street, Baltimore. I have learned that by the proclamation of the Governor of the State, dated October, 28th, 1864, that all persons held in bondage in the State were made free whether they were minors or adults. That three of my children Mary, Kitty and Dickey, were without my knowledge or consent or that of my husband, taken into Anne Arundel county and subsequent to the date of the Governors proclamation as is alleged by Mrs. Woodward, were bound to her by the Orphans' Court of said county until their majority and by her have been put out to service beyond the control of either of my husband or myself. Your petitioner would further represent, that my husband now temporarily absent on the Eastern Shore of this State and who would unite in this petition, is a sober and industrious man, a good husband and kind father and is fully competent to take charge of his children. Your petitioner would further represent that for the last eleven years she has lived in the family of Mr. Lewis Merryman, residing near Towsontown, Baltimore county, who will testify if necessary to my ability properly to discharge the duties growing out of the maternal relation.