

that they were taken against her will and bound to Col. Somerfield Berry, and that she is able to take care of them, and give them education."

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15th, 1864.

*Sir*:—This is to inform you that I hired with Mr. Levi Buffington, living at the Three Mile House, on the Hookstown road. After being there one year I brought my daughter to live with me. After she had been there three or four weeks, he then had her bound to him without my consent. The time being out last October, she left and came to me, and he came and took her away by two police. He talks of removing, and I am afraid he will take her with him. You will please attend to it as soon as you can, and you will much oblige your humble servant. Very respectfully,

LUCY LEE.

Her name is Mary Lee.

*Endorsed*—"States that her daughter, Mary Lee, having served the term for which she was bound, and returned to her mother, was taken away forcibly to the house of her former master. Asks to have her restored."

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BALTIMORE, January 10th, 1865.

LT. COL. W. E. W. ROSS,

In charge of Freedman's Bureau:

*Sir*:—I have a daughter now over eighteen years old, who was bound some years ago against my will, and without my knowledge to Mr. Buffington, on the Hookstown road, near Baltimore. After my daughter reached her majority, she returned to me, and was taken away by force to the house of Mr. Buffington, since which time I've not been able to see her.

I wrote you a letter some time ago, and having received no answer, I thought I would write again. It is hard that I should be deprived of my daughter's aid now in my old days, and that she should be kept a prisoner here in a free land. We were delighted when we heard that the Constitution set us all free, but God help us, our condition is bettered but little; free ourselves, but deprived of our children, almost the only thing that would make us feel free and happy. It was