

BALTIMORE, November 10th, 1864.

To COL. ROSS,

In charge of Freedmen's Bureau :

Respected Sir :—Through the kindness of a friend, I am enabled to make the following statement, asking your advice and if need be your assistance: Last April my child was taken from me and sold to Mr. Oliver McGill, living about thirteen miles on the Washington road, a short distance from General Tyler's headquarters, Relay House. Being extremely anxious to see my child, I engaged with Mr. James Smith, livery stable keeper, on Eutaw Place corner of Dolphin street, to convey me to the above farm for the sum of ten dollars. I had not been on the above place five minutes, not even seeing my child, when I was ordered off with a threat that if ever I set my foot on his place again he would shoot me, and he also threatened Mr. Smith, who at the time took note in his memorandum book, with date and words made use of, stat'ng to Mr. McGill that at some future time he might make use of it. As the State of Maryland has declared her to be free, and I her natural guardian, feel desirous to have possession of her, but from the above threats am fearful of making the attempt to regain her, and would if consistent with your duties, ask your interposition and advice so that I may once more obtain my child, which I have been told has been very badly used since she left me. At that time she had good under and outside clothing, but since as I been informed, has become naked and shoeless, and thereby causes me many sleepless hours and uneasiness of mind. I have been offered \$4 a month and by another \$5 to nurse children, which offer was about the time the State emancipated her. If you should render the assistance as prayed for, I shall be under many obligations and will ever hold you in remembrance.

Respected Sir,

Yours, most respectfully,

Signed for—LAVINIA BROOKS.

Living at present with Dr. Dunbar, No. 151 Lombard St., near Hanover Street.

The girl's name is Susanna Brooks, about 10 years of age.

Endorsed—“Request to have her child returned to her.”