

HEAD QUARTERS. DISTRICT OF EASTERN SHORE OF MD.,

SALISBURY, *January 28th*, 1865.

COLONEL,

I have the honor to return herewith the letter of B. F. Houston, with the endorsement of your Head Quarters, dated Baltimore, January 9th, 1865, and the statement of witnesses taken by my Aid de Camp, 1st Lieut. W. B. Norman, 8th Reg't Md. Vols., as the investigation and report required by your directions.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,

JOHN R. KENLY,

Brig. Gen. Commanding.

LIEUT. COL. S. B. LAWRENCE,

A. A. Gen'l, 8th Army Corps, Baltimore.

Endorsed—“Encloses the letter of B. F. Houston, of Chestertown, with investigation and report.”

CHESTERTOWN, *November 30th*, 1864.

[Confidential.]

Dear Sir:—A statement of facts, and a request are all I wish to make. A request which I believe from our friendly intercourse will be cheerfully granted.

Now for the facts. On Wednesday last whilst I was in the county a negro soldier named Berryman, (a Corporal in the 7th Md. Reg't,) came to my house and carried off two apprentices, a girl aged about 7 and the boy about 5. These children we have had from their infancy, and nothing but ill-feelings from both father and mother ever induced the removal of them from my house, the mother formerly belonged to me and is the same who fired my house last spring and ran off.

The request I next come to. Knowing that Gen. Wallace has acted in a similar case where apprenticed children have been carried off by their parents from their masters, I am led to believe that he will not refuse me if the matter is stated to him by you. Will you do me the favor to see him and make the explanation. I was unwilling to take any steps in the matter, (the law in the Code is very plain,) without obtaining the General's assent, because the negro might make erroneous statements to him which may lead me into difficulties. The woman who will hand you this has been in my family for six months and can tell you what treatment the children received in my kitchen and how they are now, with their mother.