

Ho. of Reps.

Mar. 7. 1864

My dear Madam,

Indeed it is a paper which I intended to hand you in person, but will have no opportunity today & it should have attention at once. It was prepared, Miss Athorne informed me, at your suggestion.

I have known Athorne, for many years, having at one time served in the Senate of Md. with him. He was a high toned & honorable man, as I ever knew. I exceedingly regret his misfortune or if you please his Crime. But his helpless family certainly should not be oppressed by the Gov. I hope you will be able to secure relief for them.

Yours very truly

Edw. A. Mabley

Am. M. Blair

P. M. Gule

Webster-Southens.  
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Don. de. Blais,  
P. M. Guel

Edmund Webster  
M.C.

To His Excellency Abraham Lincoln  
President of the United States

Sir:

I desire respectfully to represent to your Excellency that in consequence of the unfortunate homicide of Lieut. White which occurred at our residence on the Patuxent River, St. Mary's County, Maryland, on the 27<sup>th</sup> October last, events have transpired which impel me to invoke your clemency in behalf of a suffering family.

Shortly after the tragedy referred to, myself with my golden daughter and seven younger children were made prisoners in our own house by Military officers of the United States: and for three months we remained under guard, night and day, of Negro soldiers, compelled to endure every species of humiliation and insult from a class whom we had been educated to regard and treat as servants. We appealed in vain to superior white officers for relief and protection. I

During this period, also, our horses, cattle, whilys, poultry, farm produce, agricultural implements, family supplies and provisions - all our movable property - amounting in value to full \$50,000, was taken from us in the name of the United States, and we were left wholly dependent

on the charity of our neighbors, but without the means of communicating with them.

In the latter part of January a vessel of the United States took from our dock all our servants - about one hundred - including the nurse of my youngest child.

About this time, also, I was notified by Genl. Perry to quit our dwelling, on or before the 1<sup>st</sup> of February that it might be used as a small Pox Hospital for the Negro Soldiers under his command; and was informed that if my house was not vacated at that time, the Negro Patients would be placed in our midst in the house. At this appointed time I left the house with my children, and but for the kindness of friends we would have been compelled to depart on foot, as no means of conveyance had been provided for us by the officer in command.

We have thus, Your Excellency, been driven from our ancestral home, bereft of property and every means of subsistence, to seek shelter and succor at the hearts of friends.

Of the unfortunate transaction which is the occasion of our woes, having full knowledge of the facts, I will say no more than to express my conscientious conviction that

the act of my husband was purely self-defensive, and committed under circumstances of intense provocation. A proper investigation will, I have every confidence, confirm this statement.

But even if otherwise, must public justice be appeased by the sufferings of unoffending women and helpless children, who in addition to their other sorrows, are deprived of the supporting and consoling presence of their natural guardians and protectors? Have we not already suffered enough?

I therefore entreat your Excellency in the name of Mercy, that we be permitted at once to return to the shelter of our desolated home.

Very Respectfully  
Yours

C. M. Garrison