

You can tell her that She can hold to you as long as she can I never would expect to ask her again to let you come to me because I know that the devil has got her hot set againsts that that is write now my Dear children I am a going to close my letter to you Give my love to all enquiring friends tell them all that we are well and want to see them very much and Corra and Mary receive the greater part of it you selves and dont think hard of us not sending you any thing I you father have a plenty for you when I see you Spott & Noah sends their love to both of you Oh! My Dear children how I do want to see you

[*Spotswood Rice*]¹

HL

[*Benton Barracks Hospital, St. Louis, Mo., September 3, 1864*]

I received a leteter from Carline telling me that you say I tried to steal to plunder my child away from you now I want you to understand that mary is my Child and she is a God given rite of my own and you may hold on to hear as long as you can but I want you to remember this one thing that the longor you keep my Child from me the longor you will have to burn in hell and the qwicer youll get their for we are now making up a bout one thoughtsand blacke troops to Come up tharough and wont to come through Glasgow and when we come wo be to Copperhood rabbels and to the Slaveholding rebbels for we dont expect to leave them there root near branch but we thinke how ever that we that have Children in the hands of you devels we will trie your [vertues?] the day that we enter Glasgow I want you to understand kittey diggs that where ever you and I meets we are enmays to each orthere I offered once to pay you forty dollers for my own Child but I am glad now that you did not accept it Just hold on now as long as you can and the worse it will be for you you never in you life before I came down hear did you give Children any thing not eny thing whatever

not even a dollers worth of expences now you call my children your pro[per]ty not so with me my Children is my own and I expect to get them and when I get ready to come after mary I will have bout a powrer and authority to bring hear away and to exacute vengencens on them that holds my Child you will then know how to talke to me I will assure that and you will know how to talk rite too I want you now to just hold on to hear if you want to iff your conchosome tells thats the road go that road and what it will brig you to kittey diggs I have no fears about geting mary out of your hands this whole Government gives chear to me and you cannot help your self

ALS

Spotswood Rice²

Another soldier unsuccessfully sought a discharge so that he could provide for the needs of his wife and children, whose owner would not maintain them.

Taylor's Barracks [*Louisville, Ky.*] December 4th 1864
 Mr Abraham Lincoln I have one recest to make to you that is I ask you to dis Charge me for I have a wife and she has four Children thay have a hard master one that loves the South hangs with it he dos not giv them a rage [*rag*] nor havnot for too years I have found* all he says let old Abe Giv them Close if I had them I raise them up but I am here and if you will free me and hir and heir Children with me I Can take Cair of them

She lives with David Sparks in Oldham Co Ky

My Woman is named Malindia Jann my daughter Adline Clyte and

*I.e., provided.

from Berlin, ed. ed. Families: Freedom: A Document
 History of African-American Genesis in the Civil War Era (1997)