"A"

7593

Jany 20/64

cite

Dr. H. Frey
Lieut. & A.D.C.
Gen. Rains Staff

Head Quarters U. S. Forces
Gallatin Tenn. Jan. 9th 1865

Mr H. Abston.

Sir.

The General Commanding directs that you permit all of your negros to remain at home - that you clothe and feed them, and they in return will work for and obey you in all rightfull orders -

It has been reported to him that you have shamefully abused one or more of the negro women recently. Such treatment of negros will not be allowed in this Military district - all those who continue it will be punished for it.

By order of Brig Gen E. A. Paine
A. H. Trego
Lieut and A. O. O.

State of Tennessee,

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,

Nashville, Jan. 13th 1864

Maj. Gen. L. H. Rousseau
Comanding Dist. Nashville:

General

The bearer Mr. Charles Abston is a citizen of Sumner County. He has been uniformly a doubtful friend of the Union. He has been forced from his home to seek safety from rebels. He was the only Union man of his whole family conection which is a very large one. I have also known him as a kind and agreeable gentleman and of strict integrity. I hope that you will do all you can for him.

Yours truly
Jos. S. Fowler
Comptr=

Nashville, Jan 20th 1864.

To Maj. Gen. Rousseau, commanding the Department of Nashville.

Your petitioner, Charles C. Abston, would state that he lives within seven miles of the town of Gallatin, in Sumner County, Tennessee, and is the owner of a farm which he has heretofore cultivated with slave labor. His slaves have become so insubordinate that it is impossible to manage them, unless the policy being now enforced by Brig. Gen. Paine, is modified or changed. Your petitioner has on the place thirty seven negro-women & children, and but one man to assist him in feeding, clothing, and taking care of this large family. Thirteen negro-men have left, since the battle of Fort Donelson, and gone within the lines of the Federal Army, - three of them having left within the last ten days. Your petitioner went to see Gen. Paine, and after informing him that all his men had left, except one, he proposed to bring in and deliver to him (Gen. Paine) the women and children, for the reason that your petitioner could not clothe and feed them without the labor of the men. Gen. Paine refused to receive them, saying that your petitioner should keep and support them by his own labor. He further stated that there should be no labor in his department without compensation: that the pun-

-ishment of slaves, for disobedience or any other offences, must be done under his supervision, and furnished your petitioner with a printed copy of an agreement which he stated that the former owner or hirer of the slaves had to sign on getting back, or hiring a slave. The printed copy of the agreement is herewith filed. Your petitioner could not get his men back, nor would Gen. Paine agree to receive the women and children. Most of the able-bodied negro-men in Sumner County, and great numbers from adjoining counties, have reported themselves to Gen. Paine under the belief that Gen. Paine had issued an order requiring them to do so; and the slaves, on returning home, were furnished with passes by which they were required to report again within a given number of days, at which time they are to be hired out under the supervision of Gen. Paine.— Gen. Paine denies issuing any such order, but on the slaves reporting to him, he assumes the right to hire them out, or control them in such manner as he thinks proper.

Your petitioner has been a loyal citizen of the United States during the whole time of the existing struggle, and he prays for such order, or orders, as will restore to him his rights of property, and protect him in the enjoyment thereof.

Charles C. Abston

James D. White states he lives in Wilson County, Tennessee,- that some time about the last of December an impression obtained generally among the slaves in his county that they were required by an order of Gen. Paine to report to him, at Gallatin, and under this belief great numbers of them had gone to Gallatin, since the first day of this year. All the men, belonging to your petitioner, and at home the first of the year, have been to Gallatin, and have returned home with passes requiring them to go back to Gallatin in a few days; - and on one of the passes an indorsement was made requiring your petitioner to see that the slaves returned to Gallatin by the day fixed in the face of it. The passes purported to be given by order of Gen. Paine.
He further states that the slaves in his county have become insubordinate and worthless, mainly in consequence of Gen. Paine's assuming to control and determine the relations between them and their former owners

Jas. D. White

Nashville, Jan. 20th 1864.