27 Jan + 8 11 Hall Course in the Wallington 27 the fu Dear the A very wetty the coloured woundan whom blowe huver for several years, and respe highly for her, induction habits and upright life, is now at my office, and represents that he daughter, a tall, slender well proportion our manne a colour man by the name of Alpen Thomas, and that with of theme war taken by Mr. Ficketin a merufu of Congrego how ble. to that state, at the end of the lack refin of compile, org. about 14 months ago. They went to his place, and the mothin had two letters from his daugates after she got theme: then an interval occurred, when no letter was recena. But in the last, a letter var rend by for Bradly Sign of this it with show Heper has focusity local, written at bachoitle the 22 of that month, by a lee. E. E. Dyer, our ofthis city in which he says that matter hunday presitive he had met att Alfren and his when how he had known here, and who he said, appeared to be very anch alann, and agrain of being kithingthe. They said they had been living with the Freshtin who defined to take them back to wachington, by the bay of Alabaina that on reaching Franklin, in Tenen they were alanced at something they bear, and re-

Letter to Salmon P. Chase Chase Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, 27th June, 1848

## Dear Sir,

A very worthy old coloured woman whom I have known for several years and respect highly for her industrious habits and upright life, is now at my office, and represents that her daughter, a tall, slender well proportioned girl married a coloured man by the name of Alfred Thomas, and that both of them were taken by Mr. Fichlin, a member of Congress from III. to that state, at the end of the last session of Congress, viz. about 14 months ago.

They went to his place and this mother had two letters from her daughter after she got them; then an interval occurred when no letter was received. But in Nov. last, a letter was recd. By Jos. Bradley Esq. of this city, with whom Alfred had formerly lived written at Nashville the 22d of that month by Mr. E.C. Dyer, once of this city, in which he says that on the Sunday previous he had met with Alfred and his wife whom he had known here and who he said appeared to be very much alarmed and afraid of being kidnapped. They said they had been living with Mr. Fichlin who desired to take them back to Washington by the way of Alabama; that on reaching Franklin, in Tennessee they were alarmed at something they heard, and

fund to go puttin in that Incetion, and after some party, come to bashville, but we followed by two furtheaven who seemed to take a free indian interest in them that an attempt was made to enter then row at night ; for by some one for the line pour, as Alper reppond, of securing them free tra-P ifin Drand in pers. Byen says in his letter, teach his surprised four play, and did all he could to protect this: that he took them to the Rev. Mr. Jeater and to jude Campbell, the latter of whom provided them a logging that inght, and on losed any por then having and and by the Clerk of the and and had then blace on board the Steamer Suga quehanna H. E. IL- Comas Matter, Mulletwo hunder to hand them Balad in Functionate, Some them, this distrefted wrother has been hotting of them; and she dering me to cause inquining to be mente respecting them. after this statement of the case, twike not apologice for asking your and in the matter, pe Law surgen will chearfully give to your from howen I hope that through suis appropriate agency, you will be able to trace them; and y he detraly came to Guinati, it i probable that the orling oure profle then will have some knowledge of the fact , any information you can obtain vile

fused to go further in that direction, and after some parley, came to Nashville, but are followed by two gentlemen who seemed to take a peculiar interest in them; that an attempt was made to enter their room at night, by some one for the purpose, Alfred supposed, of securing their free papers.

Dyer said in his letter, that he suspected foul play, and did all he could to protect them; that he took them to the Rev. Mr. Scates and judge Campbell, the latter of whom provided a lodging that night and on Monday got their papers endorsed by the Clerk of the county, and had them placed (Alfred and his wife) on board the steamer Susquehanna, H.E. McComas Master, who pledged himself to see them safely in Cincinnati.

Since that time the distressful mother has heard nothing of them, and she desires me to cause inquiries to be made respecting them. After this statement of the case, I will not apologise for asking your aid in the matter, for I am sure you will cheerfully give it if in your power. I hope that through some appropriate agency, you will be able to trace them, and if he actually came to Cincinnati, it is probable that the coloured people their will have some knowledge of this fact. Any information you can obtain will

trong pratifie to a mother iton affection are I turnam even here, where her race are butchat tel, I shall be happy to receive and communicate your answer. Mour Very Respectfully The many in. Charles they all the second of a light to be the second second What think you of 345 indictioned against Dray This, Bayre and English, anising out of tou negro attuction caus inthis up? So many are in preparation, in there are 4 orney of slaver taken - an inst for each 13. each picoun, that is 3 × 40 - 123 There ware 74 Slaver caele prover is charged with abductings, on transporting each slave that if 74×3= 222; add the two sums togethin and you have the appropriate 340. Queing. 15 Com an indiction out be suttained for the carcing of slaver, there they go withintanty from the master, and there the alleged lareny country nig in receiving them on toand a vegel at a distance from their Imicil? 2 If the primer may be idicted for concerny, can they for the same act, be indicted for entiring and transporting the slaves away when the ach of Med. of 96 Flight 6) Jee. 19? Drayton who was ten Poul of the enterprise, has heft whe a very good comage till now, but has great how -202 of being south to the Ruitentian; he says he can stand my thing but that's from that he recoile. The act. 2714

Be very grateful to a mother whose affections are human even here where her race are but chattels. I shall be happy to receive and communication your answer.

Yours Very Respectfully

D.A. Hall

What think you of 345 indictments against Drayton, Sayre and English, arising out of the negro abduction cases in this city? So many are in preparation, viz. there are 41 owners of slaves taken – an ind<sup>t</sup> for each vs. each prisoner, that is  $3 \times 41 = 123$ . There were 74 slaves: each prisoner is charged with abducting, or transporting each slave, that is  $74 \times 3 = 222$ : add the two sums together and you have the aggregate 345.

Queries. 1<sup>st</sup>. Can an indictment be sustained for the <u>larceny</u> of slaves, where they go voluntarily from their masters, and where the alleged larceny consists only in receiving them on aboard a vessel at a distance from their domicile?

If the prisoners may be indicted for larceny, can they for the same act, be indicted for enticing and transporting the slaves away? Under the act of Md. of '96 Chapt. 67 Sec. 19?

Drayton who was the soul of the enterprise has kept up a very good courage till now, but has great horror of being sent to the Penitentiary: he says he can stand anything but that: from that he recoils. The act

which he is menaced with the award, this ach of led. 17. 1757 Dagaingt the cha that the procentor us . That questio lann ha critter D.A. Hall. Born an with with a support the the

under which he is menaced with that fate, is as you are no doubt aware, the act of Md. of 1737, Chapt. 2, Sec. IV.

If he can be defended against the charge under that act, he cares for nothing else.

The indictment will be laid before the grand jury this week; they are prepared under both acts, but it strikes me that the prosecutor may be compelled to elect which he will try them under. That question at all events will be said. Prisoners may not be but twice in peril for the "same offence". I guess it will be argued that the stealing is one offence, for which they may be tried, and if acquitted, they may be indicted for aiding slaves to escape from their masters, or for transporting them from the country.—But I dare say Mr. Mann has written you fully on this subject.

> Yours Very Truly D.A. Hall

Salmon P. Chase's diary entry for July 5, 1848 includes the following:

"-- called on Bates the barber to get him to make enquiries about colored boy & wife, supposed to be kidnapped &c by Ficklin M.C. of Illinois –"