

Transcription

New Orleans La

May 21st. 1865

Honorable Sir

I have the honor to address you, in reference to a very important affair, concerning my happiness.

About 16 years ago, I was Sold as a Slave, from the State of Virginia, Bowling green, near Fredericksburg, in to the State of Louisiana I left behind Me a wife, and 5 living Children I never heard from her Since, and I wish her to Know (if she is alive) where I am, and for her to write to me, in order to determine for the future.

The Master, my wife and Children were with, when I left was named, Charles Ferris

My Wife's Name was Polly Roy before she was married to me

| | | |
|---------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| My 1st. Child | | Mary Jane |
| " 2nd " | | Mary Ellen |
| " 3d. " | | Henry Paul |
| " 4th " | | William Silas |
| " 5th " | | William Henderson, a baby in Arms |

As Military Governor of the State of Virginia, and Civil Governor of West Virginia I do take the trouble of addressing you, and I do hope you will take a little interest in this affair of mine. If by any possobillity you can bring this Matter to light, and make me happy Man I shall ever be your

Most Obedient Servant

and pray for future

Prosperity

While I live

Your Most respectfully

STEPHEN FLEMMING

P.S. I belonged to Jessee Terril of Caroline County from my birth until I left

S. F.

Citation: Stephen Fleming to Governor Francis F. Pierpont, May 21, 1865. Executive Papers of Governor Francis F. Pierpont, 1865–1868, Acc. 37024. State Government Records Collection, Library of Virginia.