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Concord Massachusetts Children to Abraham Lincoln, April 1864 (Petition urging Lincoln to free all slave children)

Abraham Lincoln Papers at the Library of Congress. Transcribed and Annotated by the Lincoln Studies Center, Knox College. Galesburg, Illinois.

Concord Massachusetts Children to Abraham Lincoln, April 1864 (Petition urging Lincoln to free all slave children)

From Concord Massachusetts Children to Abraham Lincoln [With Endorsement by Lincoln]¹, [April 1864]

(This heading was written by Mrs Horace Mann, widow of Hon Horace Mann

Petition of the children of the United States; (under 18 years) that the President will free all slave children.

[Signatures omitted.]

These children understand the social relations, father, mother, brother and sister; and the thought of separation is distressing, and when they are instructed to know that little slave children are constantly liable to be sold away -- fathers and mothers also, their sensibilities are wrought up to the highest indignation.

[Petition:]

CHILDRENS PETITION TO THE PRESIDENT

asking him to free all the little slave children in this country.

Names of girls -- under 18 ... Names of boys under 18. Names of girls under 18 years

[Signatures omitted.]

Permit them to approach, He cries. Nor scorn their humble Names.

This Petition is designed only for the President. -- a sort of private letter from the children of Concord, Massachusetts.

They have been delighted with the idea of speaking to our good President, & of giving one cent - or more, for the benifit of the poor little slaves--

195 Signatures

[Endorsed on Envelope by Lincoln:]

Little People's Petition

[Note 1 For Lincoln's response to this petition, see Lincoln to Mary Mann, April 5, 1864, and for Mrs. Mann's reply to Lincoln, see Mary Mann to Lincoln, April 20, 1864. Mary Mann was the widow of Horace Mann, one of the country's leading advocates of educational reform in the 19th Century.]

