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Philadelphia, Mayor's office,

Jan 7 26. 1828.

Gentlemen,

By return of High Constable Garrison, I received a letter from you, - and on the 18th inst. the letter of your Mr. B. J. Walker, dated at Monticello December 15th. For these favours I thank you, but have deeply to regret the precious time I have lost in not receiving answer to the many letters I have addressed to you in relation to the kidnaped boys, - precious I say as to their chance of redemption from bondage. A year's additional residence in their situation, and under their circumstances, may greatly alter the chance of restoration. Mr. Garrison arrived safe with Ephraim Lawrence. A boy given up to him by Col. Hickey of Baton Rouge, reached home also, but died with debility, eight days after his arrival.

He was one of those unfortunately stolen away by Pickard. Another boy bought by Col. Hickey of the wife of Pickard, at the same time and under the same circumstances is still retained by him. - The half-blind woman, Sarah Nicholson, that was in the possession of Mr. Kendrick near Baton Rouge, I find her name has been transferred to G. W. Morgan of New Orleans. I think I shall be able to establish her identity by the evidence of white persons, and procure her return.

I have very particularly to thank you, and Mr. Quilman - and I pray you to convey my respects to him for your attention to Mr. Garrison, and for joining with him

him in the Bond to Pros. I hold myself personally bound to exonerate you, if any responsibility shall be laid on the parties thereto. I note well the conditions of the Bond, and God willing, shall make them good. I shall immediately commence preparations for the journey of the white witnesses to your Country, to testify before your Courts, as to the identity of these people. — I trust the Bill you speak of may be enacted into a law, — it will be a righteous provision? —

Fearful of accidents, I will ask you in reply to state, at what time the Witnesses should reach Wichita to attend the trial in Pike County in October. The boys there I understand to be William Miller, John Jacobs, James Bayard and Peter Hook, — and whether in this case or in the cases of any others, if white witnesses reach the respective Counties, before the regular period of the Courts, their witness could be taken by consent of parties, and the object thus effected, without detaining the witnesses at great expenses to us, and risk of health to them? Can you suggest anything in this matter, that will aid our views and lessen the expenses I anticipate. —

The Black man Kerr, the Kidnapper, against whom Ephraim Lawrence was ^{to} testify, died in Prison before the boys return. Two of the Kidnappers have thus died in Prison before trial. I informed you that in others of them had been convicted for 42 years. I occasionally hear of Joe Johnson — I hold him in personal remembrance. If he should ever make his appearance in your Country, I pray you to use every action to cause his arrest. I am bound to pay \$500 on his conviction, which

which would be absolutely certain, if I could but lay
my finger on him, - this reward perhaps in the view
of your Constables or Officers, may keep the matter alive. -
I have reason to believe that he has within the last two
years been in the States of Alabama, North Carolina,
and Mississippi. - Your Obed. Servt.

(Signed) Joseph Watson
Mayor.

Miss^{es} Duncan S. and
R. J. Walker, Watchez.