



Coffin, a member of the American Anti-Slavery Society, writes to author and abolitionist Lydia Maria Child about Harriet Jacobs. "I hope you will call & see, if she is now in the city, one of the most interesting cases of escape from slavery that you have ever seen."

Phila. 25 June 1842

Esteemed Friend,

... I hope you will call & see, if she is now in the city, one of the most interesting cases of escape from slavery that you have ever seen. She was sent from this city yesterday morning & consigned to Mr. Johnston. She is from N.C. was brought away by a sea captain. She was sold by her master to the speculators & to avoid being sent away she was hidden for 7 years! in a small upper room of a house occupied by colored people & within a hundred yards of her master's house, who did not know she was there. She had not seen her boy, for 7 years till within 3 days of her coming away. She has been shut up so long that she can hardly walk. Another woman was brought away from Delaware, who was found tied to a tree. If Mr. Johnston was the man he ought to be, he would invite you occasionally to see some of these remarkable cases, which are continually passing from Phil. to N.Y. ~~The Vagrant~~ what a queer mistake. The Vigilance Committee of this city are doing a fine business in weakening & delapidating the edifice of slavery. Success to them...

Joshua Coffin

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**Citation:**

Autograph letter, signed; Anti-Slavery Collection, Boston Public Library; Lydia Maria Child Papers, *The Collected Correspondence of Lydia Maria Child, 1817-1880*, ed. Patricia G. Holland and Milton Meltzer. Millwood, N.Y.: Kraus Microfilm, 1980. 14:389—