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New York May 24th /67.

To His Excellency

The President of the U.S.

Sir.

I am the wife of Appleton Oak. Smith: have lived in Patchogue, Suffolk Co. I understand that a pardon is contemplated by your Excellency in his behalf. I also know that he has asked this on behalf of the happiness of his wife & children. Up to the present no one has more than myself hoped and prayed for this merciful act from your grace; but I am constrained to say & state to you that on the 25th of June of the past year 1866 he sent for me to go & meet him in Liverpool, wishing me to leave the two younger children Corinne & Randolph with his mother till they would be sent for by him. I was unwilling

to leave them, but his mother promised to bring them to us herself in person. I started, taking with me at his mother's suggestion such things as would naturally lead me to suppose that I was going to home-keeping; also some toys belonging to Bessie the eldest, who was with him since the previous Christmas. When I arrived, he came to meet me, took me to a lodging house in Chatham St. saying he dared not take me to a Hotel as he feared to be arrested. I was very careful not to commit any imprudence and was deceived by him in every way. He told me it would not be prudent for him to live there with me, but would come every day to see me; promised to bring Bessie from London where he had been living, but he never did do so. He showed me to my room & left me there. The next day he came & taking a letter out of his pocket he read it to me. It seemed to be a letter from him to me. His mother had sent to him the said letter and had written

on the back of it thus, Dear Appleton, I did not give Sophia
the letter, as I feared her temper; you can best manage her,
your mother. He insisted on my signing some divorce
papers which I refused to do. He then told me that unless
I did as he told me he never would let me see my children
again. He said you have no means to return with if
you had, they would be removed before you get there. If you
sign them, I will send for you again in a year. I was in his
power entirely. I saw that resistance was useless & signed the
fatal papers. I had no idea such a thing was expected of me
when I went to him. He then sent me to Smyrna in Asia
Minor. While there I received letters telling me that several
months previous to this he had gone to Portland, Maine, where
we were married, and married a girl by the name of August
Mason, a step cousin of his, she being fully aware that he was
a married man with three children. His mother attended
the wedding thinking I should never hear of it. On hearing this
I returned to New York, went to Patchogue to claim my children
which I left in his mother's custody. She E. Parker Smith

refused to tell me where they are. Of course the marriage
is illegal. I desire to have my darlings restored to me.
 Hoping Your Excellency will consider my unhappy position
and only award the pardon when he shall have manfully
done as I request. - I understand that she was with
him for three months in Brooklyn, New York; and the
neighbours recognized him by a picture I showed,
also the children. His mother has told all friends
that he, myself & children were gone to Brazil.
This being false. Will your Excellency only pardon
him at the request of the Judge who will examine
this case.

Hoping to be heard by your Excellency.

I remain

Most respectfully

Isotta Oak-Smith

Isotta
Isotta Oak-Smith
the Defendant
Isotta Oak-Smith