

January 19, 1864 - Police theft of a contraband's money in Nashville

Nashville, January 19, 1864

To His Excellency Andrew Johnson, Military Governor of Tennessee-

Your petitioner, Robin Ewing, Colored man, would show to your Excellency that last Sunday night, he, together with eight other Colored men, were engaged in playing cards in a little eating house, on Union Street, between Summer & High Streets, when three city policemen and two guards entered and arrested us all. We were then searched on the spot, to ascertain whether we had any weapons on our persons. A Mr. Ingall, one of said City Policemen, searched me, & in said search, took from me a knife, my watch, and my pocket book, the latter containing over \$26. He handed back my watch, it being broken, remarking that he did not want that-The knife, not being worth more than thirty cents, he delivered up in the Police office-But the pocketbook & its contents he held on to, & still holds on to-These statements the petitioner can prove by eight Colored witnesses. He has, however, no white witness & can therefore effect nothing in a regular law suit-He submits the case to your Excellency, & invokes your extra ordinary powers to defeat a piece of unmitigated rascality, & to restore to him his hard earnings.

Papers of Andrew Johnson, Vol. 6, p. 568.

