Tuskaloosa Ala
April 20th 1870

His Excellency W. H. Smith
Governor of Ala.

On the first of April my dear husband (Prof V. H. Vaughan) was arrested and thrown into Jail, where he has suffered very much. I begged my husband to write to you as soon as he was arrested; but I do not know that he has done so, you will therefore pardon my presumption in writing myself.

The preliminary examination has just closed, and the argument of the case will take place this afternoon. There is not a scintilla of proof against my dear husband. They put him in Jail thinking that he would be taken out that night and murdered, which most assuredly would have been done, if the U. S. Soldiers

had not prevented it. The "Ku Klux" have been "out" several nights swearing that they would hang "Smith & Vaughan".
Last Friday night at 2 o'clock these bad men surrounded my house, and by shooting hallooing and swearing, frightened me and my poor little children very very much. They knew that my poor dear husband was in jail guarded by Soldiers. They knew I was alone. No tongue can express my anguish. Now it is thought my husband will be released this evening or to-morrow; but every body that speaks to me says that he must leave here at once or be murdered. Mr Vaughan, employed Judge W. P. Smith, Mr J. M. Martin, and Judge Moody. They say he must leave. The only reason given is that he is a "Defiant Republican".
O! I do hate to give up my dear dear husband.
In my anguish, Governor, I write to ask You if there is no remedy?

Very Respectfully,
Cornelia Bibb Vaughan.

Mrs. Cornelius Bird
Vaughan.
Tuskaloosa, April 20. '70

The case of her
husband.

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Answered April 24. '70.