

in their cellar - the house we
live in is awful - and we are
paying \$30 pr month - it is
entirely too much - you see
it only leaves us \$20 pr month
to live and I assure you I have
to be very economical for
food is so dear - yet we must
live - I know you will be
tired of hearing of all our
trials - but this is only to
give you an insight of what
we have gone through

I hope both you and
Mr S - are enjoying most excellent
health - I only wish you
would come and see ~~us~~
we would be too happy to have
you do so - A sends his best
love also the Boys all send you
many kisses - Believe me
ever your devoted and loving
Sister M J L Blake
My sincere love to
Mr S - write very soon

direct - to Mrs N V B
(care of Mrs C E Massicot
78 East Baltimore St
Baltimore)

Baltimore Aug - 26 1863

Mrs S Steadman
My dear Sister

No doubt you will
be a little surprised to see by the
heading of my letter that we are in
Baltimore, well I will give you
a little idea of all that has passed
I think I wrote you word about it
opening a Drinking saloon; well
it was the worst thing he ever did in
his life, after it was open a few days
he was taken sick, and the men he had
therein employed robbed him to a great
extent, the consequence was he could
not meet his payments and the
Sheriff shut up the store, the men
went to law, for their money, and
you don't know all the trouble we
had, now in the meantime I opened
a little store, and it took all I could