992

War Department,

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,

Washington, Aug. 19th, 1865.

Genl.

I do not recollect whether I mentioned to you the fact that Genl Birney (Brig. Genl) wishes to be detailed for duty in this Bureau, in a letter which I wrote to you two or three days ago. I did not keep a copy of it. Judge Bond of Maryland called at the Office to request that he be detailed and assigned to duty in said State. Genl B. also says that the Secy. of War desires that such assignment be made.

Herewith I inclose a report of Surg. De Witt of this Bureau to Surg. Homer, showing the ~~as~~ condition of affairs in the medical department in the Sea Islands. It is wonderful that 15% of 25.000 on some of the Islands died

in four months? There has been a criminal neglect of the freedmen by the philanthropists in the Dept. of the South. The preservation of life should have been the first thing to consider. Social Agents, and traveling agents, and Clerks &c have been hired on account of their peculiar fitness for duty in said Dept. by the Agent of this Bureau, and have been paid out of the Cotton fund, when good and suitable men could have been just as well detailed from the Military Service. Yet not a single detail had been asked for, (until after my visit). Why could not a few physicians have been hired in the place of such agents, and their places supplied ~~from~~ by details from the army.

I also inclose herewith a copy of a telegram rec.d last evening from Gen. Sherman. Dated the 18th inst. I also inclose one of the 4th inst rec.d while I

was away - before I ret.d to Washington. The former explains the letter. I have telegraphed to Genl - S. to know whether these stories of great numbers of negroes murdered while in South Alabama are true.

Please telegraph when you will return.

I suppose I will of course get an answer from Genl Baird today.

Very Resp.

Your obdt.

J. S. Fullerton

A. A. G.

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard

Comdg. Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Augusta Maine.

Washington
Aug 19 1865.

Fullerton J. S.
A. A. G.

Concerning the affairs of the Bureau in the absence of Maj. Gen. Howard.

Rec'd

New Orleans
Aug. 21st 1865

Major Gen. Howard
Commissioner of Freedmen

General.

You will remember me as having been associated with A. L. Richardson as Correspondent of the Tribune when you commanded a Division under Gen. Couch. I was quite frequently at your Head Quarters when encamped back of Falmouth & not far from you when you participated in the bloody attack upon the heights of Fredericksburgh. Since that time I have been in the Department of the South & the Gulf, & during the past eighteen months have been interested in the Cultivation of three large plantations in this State & have had in my service something on two hundred negroes all the time.

My object in writing to you now is to represent the embarrassment the planters are laboring under from not having competent & practical business men in the Freedmans Bureau in this city. Mr. Conway, the present assist= =ant Commissioner is constantly throw= =ing obstacles in the way of the success= =ful cultivation of the plantations. With undoubtedly good intentions he has no practical talent & cannot understand or fairly decide one half the questions that come before him. We are sin= cerely anxious that, should there be a change in this Bureau & as the friends of Lieut. F. A. Starring are about to present his name to you to fill the position now occupied by Mr. Conway I desire to recommend him as a man in every way quali= =fied to fill the position. Lieut. Starring was Provost Marshal of this Left. Gen= =der the administrations of Gens. Banks, Hurlbut & Canby & still occupies that position under the latter General. He

has given almost unusual satisfaction & for executive ability we think has no superior in the dept. His record as a soldier is also an excellent one having participated in most of the great battles of the west prior to the grand "March to the sea."

As an old friend of the negro & advocate of free labor & now a planter & citizen of Louisiana I trust you will assist me in testing the experiment by the appointment of Col. Stanning or some other equally capable man.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servant
Nath. Paige

New Orleans
August 20th 1865

Paige, Nath.

Suggests that Mr. Conway be removed
Recommends Colonel
T. W. Stirling.

197

Hamilton St. & 33d
Philadn. Pa.
August 31. 65

General

Will you kindly furnish me with a certificate as to the manner in which I performed my duties as Mul. Inspector of the 11th. Corps, under your command, during the mos. of July, Aug. & Sept. 1863 — as also the nature of my department while on your Staff? If so doing you will greatly oblige

Most Respy.
Your Obt. Svt.
C. H. Campbell
late Inspector &c.

Brvt. Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
U.S.A.
Chief Bureau Freedmen.

Curtin.

Philadelphia, Aug. 21, 1865.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Committees of the "Union Volunteer" and "Cooper Shop Volunteer" Refreshment Saloons of this City, have, after four years' labor, decided to formally close these institutions on Monday next, 28th inst. Appropriate ceremonies will be held on the evening of that day, at the Academy of Music, at which you are earnestly requested to be present.

Be kind enough to inform me whether you will be able to accept this invitation.

I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

Robt. K. Corson

Cor. Sec'y, Joint Comt.

Boston 21st Aug. '65

My dear General,

You already know Dr Lieber by reputation. I beg to present him personally. I am sure that you will be glad to confer with him on the very interesting question of your bureau. & I know no-body whose mind is more full of the resources which you will

[illegible] & enjoy.

He has resided for a long time in S. C. & knows slavery in its real character, & knows the masters.

Yr faithfully yours,

Charles Sumner

Newberry C. House S.C.
Aug 22 1865

Maj Gen O O Howard

Sir.

I landed at Savanah Ga. with no time to go to Hilton Head, but came directly to Augusta Ga. where I stopped for a few days & made the acquaintance of the military authorities & among the rest of Capt Bryant of Maine who is the Agent of the Bureau there appointed by Gen. Saxton. He has no military corps. having resigned as he told me, but is on a salary to be paid by Gen Saxton from some fund he has. He seems a very thorough efficient man & a good friend of the Freedman. but I think him ambitious & he means to settle in Georgia finally, he told me he could control them to a very great extent, & had a society among them with extensive ramifications throughout

the Stall, this of course is private. He speaks very highly of Gen Wilcox who is now travelling through the State getting information with regard to the Freedmen, & who in some way has the expectation of being appointed as Commissioner for Georgia. Capt Bryant has come slightly in contact with the military authorities at Augusta, but I advised him to be patient & quiet & to cause no outbreak. His quarters are besieged daily by hundreds, if not by thousands of Freedmen. After a week in Augusta, I came into South Carolina, by the way of Edgefield, Newberry, Abbeville, &c. In all those places competent men are detailed to have charge of the affairs of your department. Here at Newberry, I find a few man wreck of 56th N.Y. Volunteers. He has a furlough to go North & will leave in a few days. He has been a lawyer & member of Congress. & I should judge, a radical abolitionist. As that you can inform yourself. Since he has been relieved, he has been holding meetings through these Districts, talking to black & white,

defining the duties of each to the other & educating both parties in regard to their new relations. I think he has met with fair success. both parties say he has acted fairly & impartially & tell the truth. I think he would like for you, to send for him, while he is North & have an interview with him. Certainly he can give you as much information, with respect to the State of affairs, as any one. He is a politician but you can judge of his ability, certainly he has the information. I think he would like to be offering as assistant Commissioner for So Carolina, & his heart is evidently in the work.

With regard to matters generally. The people seem to accept their present condition gracefully, but it seems to me, to be a patient waiting for their restoration to the Union, with a power to make laws for themselves, & a removal of the military. God pity the black man when that takes place, formerly they had a property in the black man & their punishment, was with a view not to disable him, but that fear is now removed, and

the punishment would now be a wreaking of the vengeance they properly owe another race, upon the black race. We of the North are really the only friends the black man has, and after freeing him, it will be barbarous to leave him in the hands of his enemies unprotected. He does not labor well now, but better than could have been expected under all the circumstances. I am not sure, but colonization will have to be resorted to in the end as a good for the black man. I hope you will call Gen Van Wyck to you at Washington for information. His address is "Middletown Orange, Co. N.J."

I think cotton in large ~~fields~~ fields will never be raised here by black labor, as the risk of loss total is too great. If a planter works 1000 hands, at the critical time for the crop they could all leave him, & his years labor is lost. But the land will be divided in small lots & cotton raised on them, as we in the North farm our lands. You are engaged in a great labor, & God gives you success, but I fear the black man is doomed gradually die out, but still he may have the form of recuperation, that will advance him in the scale of ~~civilization~~ civilization. We will hope for the best.

Strange to some months before I come home. Very respectfully yours, Matthew Hale

Nassau Aug 22 1865

Dear Otis

You doubtless have almost if not quite forgotten there is such a person in existence as myself. It is a long time since we met still you have not been forgotten nor could you when your noble heroic and christian deeds have been almost daily heralded in public print, I see in the Newyork Herald of the 3d that you have been promoted to Maj Genl in the Regular army. Truly in my opinion no one has been more worthy of it. I have eagerly followed you through the whole of our unholy war (in the papers) have rejoiced in your victories and felt the deepest sorrow for your irreparable loss of limb and poor Perry he has been likewise unfortunate. I spent a week in

Washington last Spring a year ago while he was there. and enjoyed my visit very much, was called there by the government to give evidence against some Rascally Nassau Rebels. Since the war commenced I have been instrumental in sending between thirty and forty of the most of our blockade Runners to Fort Lafayette. and blocking the game of a great many more,

This place is now paying the penalty of their past Villainous acts. The business of the place and most of the merchants are about Ruined. The sacrifice of the immense unpaid for Stock they had on at the sudden ending of the war more than consumed the profits they had made. It is a just Retribution, I have lost all trace of Perry. where is he now?. I hope he may be retained in the regular

army. His unfortunate loss of his arm will in a great measure unfit him for most any other business. How long will you remain in Washington? I would like to send you on some of our oranges if there will be any chance of your getting them. If you will send me your address I will forward them to Bacons care in Newyork who will send them to you. The next steamer leaves Newyork for Nassau on the 7th of october. Make my kind regards to your wife believe me

Yours Truly
Epes Sargent

Nassau N.P.
Aug 22d/65.

Sargent Epes.

Friendly letter.

ans Oct 8rd 1865.

Assistant Quartermaster's Office,

Augusta, Me., Aug 22 1865

General

The money value of

372 lbs oats @ 70¢ per bu.

& 434 " hay @ $12 per ton

is $10.73.

That is about as much as they will give.

Very Truly

T. G. Whyte

Hd Qrs. 7th Regt.
First Army Corps
Philadelphia Pa.
Aug 22. 1865

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard.
General.

Feeling very thankful for the various acts of kindness which you have done me since I first came under your command in the Eleventh Corps, I venture to ask another, if you think you can conscientiously grant it.

As you are probably aware, it has been my fortune since entering the service, to serve under quite a number of commanders, but under no particular one long enough to particularly engage his attention. This has been ~~[illegible]~~ a particularly during the last year, a condition for which I of course was not responsible

I believe, however, without exception all have when occasion required given favorable testimony, to my fidelity, and fearlessness in the discharge of duty.

I see that those officers who have served faithfully during the war are receiving a proper recognition by honest promotion. On account of the frequent change of my commanders I can hardly expect my name to be recommended for promotion, and still feeling that I have always tried to do my duty, I have thought perhaps some of my commanders might not be unwilling to give me such recommendation. I would therefore solicit the favor of you if, in conscience, you can grant it.

I am at present commanding the 7th Regt in Hancock's Corps now on duty in this city and vicinity. I received my appointment from the Sec. of War, July 15. and was immediately assigned and entered upon the discharge of my duty.

I have the honor to be, General,
Very respectfully
Your obt servt
T. T. Brown Jr
Col. 7th Regt. 1st A.C
Lat. Col. 157th N.Y. Vols

Philadelphia
August 28-65.

Brown Col. J. J.
7th Regt. 1st Brig.

Desires recommendation for brevet appointment.

Rec'd Aug. 24-1865

Shawsons Island Aug 23rd 1865

My dear Cousin

I hear all kind of rumors about the disposition to be made of our Corps (Veteran Reserve) the last is that it is to be consolidated into 6 depts and the surplus officers mustered out. I would like to know if possible if I am soon to be a Citizen so I can be making some arrangements to get a living as I cannot be idle many weeks If you can give me any information about it you will do me a very great favor. What rule will be adopted in selecting officers to be retained. Will they pick out the strong healthy officers who have never been in a fight or been disabled. (those earthy kind who have received favors) but get into the Corps through political influence. As I have never had any of that connection of the order that rule I am sure to go by the

hand. but if they detach from those who have been denounced I am disabled and obey tied to do his duty and as yet after 4 years service he has never found fault with me in not doing my duty well and cheerfully. I think in that case I may be retained although since I have been in the corps I have never been fortunate enough to be placed on duty in any position where I have been brought under the notice of the department. and I have never asked my friends to trump my claims into their notice as I have been urged to do repeatedly. but I have felt that I had rather plod slowly on and rise on my merits rather than by political influence. consequently I am still a major and many of my juniors have been promoted over my head. I do not complain of this for I can see how it was done I only dislike those who used such means to get into positions that

they are not entitled to. and
should blush to wear the uniform of
an officer & gentleman

210

I have another answer that the surplus
officers are to be assigned to the freedmans
bureau. if that is true you will probably
know something about it. I would like
very much to know something definite and
so I am here in one corner of the country
where I can get no news. I thought I
would trouble you if you can give me any
information about it.

I am expecting my little wife here
next week. She has been home with
her mother for three months. and I
have been very lonesome without her
Her face & heart is always cheerfull and when
she is with me I am always happy.

I have been in command of this post
since the 10th July but now it does
not amount to much as I have only
six prisoners and about 40 men in

your companions. I have not heard any news from any of our relatives for a long time in fact I write my letter my little wife writes all my friends letters and I leave it to her to correspond with my relatives and has also as I think she can write much better letters than myself. Where is Charles now. Give my love to your Lizzie (Elizabeth) and the Children and accept much from your affectionate

Cousin

A. P. Lee

Major 1st Regt V.R.C.
Johnsons Island
Ohio

Headqrs. 3rd. Regt. V. R. C.
Brattleboro: Vt. Aug 24th '61

My dear General

Pardon me for again troubling you. But my desire to serve again with you is my apology.

If I can be of any service in your Bureau I would like to be assigned to you.

I am at present with my Regt, and think I can be spared.

I have but little choice as to the nature of my duties, so that I have something to do.

Mrs. F. is with me at present and joins in her kindest regards.

Very truly Yrs.
F. Dwinell
Col. 3rd. V. R. C. and
Bvt. Brig. Genl. Vols.

212

New Orleans La.
Aug. 24th 1865

Major General O. O. Howard
Washington D.C.

My Dear General
I am on the point of leaving for home under General Orders 130 War Department; and I write to ask if you have a position for me in your Bureau

I have faith that I could meet your views in almost any state, although I would prefer any state to Texas, Louisiana, Florida.

Would you be kind enough to write me at Warren Trumbull Co. Ohio Care

feel very thankful
I am General
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Serv
C. Updycke
Brig. Genl. vo