U.S. B.R.F.&A.L.

Washn Nov 2 1865

140

[1865?]

Capt. A. P. Ketchum

Adj. Charleston S.C.

Capt

Your letter of the 10 has been received. & I am directed by Gen Howard to reply to your questions as follows—

Your action in regard to Col Pritchards plantation is fully approved & you will pursue the same course in all similar cases—

The restoration of land will be made in the following manner. As soon as the board of supervisors is formed for any island or locality, the owner of an Estate must make an agreement with the freedmen upon said estate that shall be satisfactory to the board of supervisors. The order of restoration will then be given upon the owner signing the obligation & producing proper proof of title & pardon—

It is not necessary to form all the boards before restoring the property in a locality where one is in operation. The action relative to the abandoned rice fields included in Gen Sherman's order will be the same as that pursued

with regard to Edisto Island

Very Respy
Yr obt Servt

Shinn

Brig Maj & A D C

A POPULAR DELUSION EXPOSED.

ALL the infinite and eternal blessings of God's salvation are ours *through faith*. We have no title to them on the ground of what we have done; but it is God's delight to give them on the ground of what Christ has done. They are the gift of His grace, through faith on our part.

How unspeakably important, then, that our faith should be real and genuine—the true faith of the Gospel! How many fancy they believe, when in reality they do not! Alas! they deceive themselves. If people generally believed the plainest declaration of God's Word—if they believed the judgment of God pronounced upon sin, "*The soul that sinneth it shall die*"—"*The wages of sin is death*"—could they go on as they do, from day to day and year to year, without ever having an hour's trouble or anxiety about their sins? You know it would be impossible. Were you to see a criminal under sentence of death—a sentence which might be ex-

ecuted without a moment's warning—interested about a thousand trifles, but perfectly unconcerned about his impending doom, could you credit the profession that he really believed in the awfulness of his situation? You could not. And is not this a picture of the world around us, pursuing its easy, careless, infatuated course, utterly regardless of the dreadful judicial sentence, "*If ye die in your sins, whither I go, ye can not come.*"

As to the glad tidings of the Gospel, similar delusions prevail. When the truth is set forth, how often do persons reply, "I believe every word you have said; I have always believed it;" while, in reality, they are unbelievers! If you owed a large sum, and were apprehensive of being arrested for it, and tidings came that another, in munificent grace, had paid it for you, would not all your apprehensions be instantly allayed? If, on the contrary, you had fears on account of the debt, would it not be indisputable proof that you did not believe the debt had been paid? Undoubtedly it would. It would prove that you were, as regards the payment of the debt, *as unbeliever*. So is it with the tidings of the Gospel. Nothing is more

common than the fashionable *profession* of belief, because to be regarded as an unbeliever is discreditable. But let the sifting question be put, "Do you then enjoy peace with God, in the assurance that your sins are blotted out?" and how melancholy the extorted confession! The truthful voice of conscience gives the lie to the language of the lips. They who do not believe that their debt is paid, do not believe that Christ has paid it. They who do not believe that their sins are gone, do not believe that Christ has borne them away. Such persons may, indeed, believe in the death of Christ; but they do not believe in the value of that death. *They do not believe in the efficacy of his atoning blood.* As regards the great fundamental truth of the Gospel, *they are still unbelievers.* Theirs is not the simple, peace-giving faith of the Gospel—that faith which can say with assurance, and which does say, in a transport of worshiping love, "*The Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*" (Isa. liii, 6.) "*His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,*" (1 Peter, ii, 24), *and bare them away forever.*

CHRIST THE ONLY SAVIOR.

God will have none to have a hand in the justification and salvation of a sinner but Christ only. And, to speak as the thing is, Christ Jesus will either be a whole Savior, or no Savior; he will either save you alone, or not save you at all. "For among men there is given no other name under heaven, whereby we must be saved," says the Apostle Peter; and Jesus Christ himself says, "I am the way, the truth and the life; and no man cometh to the Father but *by me*." So that, as Luther truly says, "besides this way, Christ, there is no way but wandering, no verity but hypocrisy, no life but eternal death."

Alas! there are thousands in the world that make a Christ, of their works, and here is their undoing. They look for righteousness and acceptation more in the precept than in the promise, in the law than in the Gospel, in working than in believing, and so miscarry.

AM. REFORM TRACT AND BOOK SOCIETY, CINCINNATI.

Cincinnati, Nov. 23, 1865

49

Major Genl. Howard,
Freedmen's Bureau,
Washington, D.C.: Dear Sir: I was encouraged to send you a little volume just issued here, and entitled "The Christian's Duties in the Temperance cause" by seeing your name among the officers of a Society recently organized in N.Y. to restrain intemperance & its kindred evils that are now coming in like a flood upon us. The consideration that that your position gives you such great opportunities thus to promote the welfare of our beloved country induced me to send you the volume.

I pray God to give you grace & the faithful in your most responsible office, & to bless your efforts to serve Him.

Yr. Bro. & Serv't in Gospel Bonds
D. P. Aydelott
No 361. W. 6th St.

CHEER THE OSA[illegible]
THE ONLY SAVIOR.
[illegible] to have a hand in the
[illegible] shiner but Christ Je-
[illegible]s, Christ's Savior;

Cincinnati O. Nov 25/65

Aigadelott, Rev B.

Friendly letter accompanying certain Books.

Recd. Nov. 27th 1865.

My dear Sir

I should much like to hear your views. If you have time on the proposed basis of the Union Convention & Reconstruction Committee.

The F. had some proposed a resolution which the R. C. have acceded to. If the two parties can agree upon a fair basis and the matter is in the hands of a joint committee

It is clear that a united effort will be more effective than one divided. If we can agree to pursue the same object

The principle difficulty is in the name. They are strongly inclined to insist - esp the word Freedmen being kept. Tho it is understood that their Representatives attach no importance - members are aware it is perpetuation.

Our objection to the name is very serious. As the most charitable parts of both resolutions

is

will be

of necessity but temporary we have to consider education our main object. In the absence of your Bureau which must cease as a power capable of giving protection before very long. They cannot carry on schools for coloured people without the consent of the Southern people and unless they strongly change, that consent will not be given. Whole cargoes carried on under a letter to Rienzi or Freedmen,

Our object is the enlightenment of the ignorant classes by general education so as to form an intelligent home against the power that now rules the South.

In this object we have a powerful sympathy amongst them under our present name but if we adopt the term they desire, that sympathy would be lost. as we fear

We are willing to take any simple title. "Union aid Com" - "American Soc. African Com." National - or the like

any blame in fact. that does not "butt" against old feeling or prejudice. I should be much pleased to know your views as that doubtless will have great weight with them. Rodney and men

Very Respectfully

S W Greene
Phil 23 Nov 1865

Thurs. Nov 23, 1865

Merrick, S. V.

Asks for opinion of Gen. Howard on the proposed union of the Union Com. & Freedmans Aid Com.

Washington City D.C.
Nov 23. 1865.

Major General
O. O. Howard U.S.A.

General"

I have the honor to inform you that by a vote of the Soldiers and Sailors National Union League of this City you have been duly elected an honorary member of their association. Trusting the interest of the Soldier and Sailor who has fought to maintain the honor of this Nation may ever receive your heart cooperation.

I Am General
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Svt
S. J. Merrill
Rec Sec
S. & S. N. U. L.

Fort Leavenworth Kansas.
Nov. 28th 1865.
23

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
Washington. D. C.

Genl. —

Permit me to call your personal attention to the application of Mr. F. C. Messinger — my father. — I hope, and believe that it will meet with the just consideration, which experience under your command, teaches me characterizes you. It is unnecessary for me to speak of his qualifications, They are evident in his communication. From the uniform kindness tendered me while Chief Signal Officer upon your staff during the Campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. I cannot but feel that it will not pass unnoticed

With much respect.
I am Genl. Your obt. Servt
C. N. Messinger
Signal Officer U. S. A.

Leavenworth, Kansas, Nov. 23, 1865.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard,
Chief of Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, D. C.

General:

On the 5th of June last past, being then in the Military service of the United States at Athens, Ala., I addressed to you an application for appointment to the superintendency of a Colony or Farm. Your reply, dated the 16th of the same month, informed me that inasmuch as Congress had made no appropriations for the Bureau, very few if any civilians would, for the present, be employed in it, but that my letter would be filed and my name registered on list of applications; and that should occasion require, my application "would be favorably considered."

Almost immediately after writing the application referred to, I was detailed as a Clerk in the Office of the Provost Marshal

for the District of Northern Alabama, at Huntsville, where I remained until recently, when my Reg't was mustered out and discharged, and I returned to my home in Wisconsin.

On my leaving Huntsville I was offered by Maj. Goodfellow, then in charge of your Bureau affairs at Huntsville, a situation as Clerk at a salary of seventy-five dollars per month, which I declined on the ground that the pay was not sufficient. I therefore beg leave to renew my application for service in the Bureau, not indeed as a plantation manager, but as a Commissioner in charge of the interests and duties of the Bureau in some one of the counties in Alabama, or wherever else you may need the services of a competent person to adjust the differences between the two races, and aid in the establishment of a thorough and permanent peace in our land on truly Christian principles

Allow me to say that my experience in the discharge of my duties in the Office of the Provost Marshal at Huntsville, pre-

vious to the arrival of Maj. Goodfellow, assures me that I shall be able to discharge, to your entire satisfaction, any duties you may require at my hands.

Please address me at Leavenworth, Kansas, where I am now located.

I have the honor to be

Most Respectfully,
Your Obt. Servt.
F. C. Messinger.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard
Commr. of Bureau of Freedman &c.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,—

I am induced to address you because you are interested in the welfare of the Freedmen and from observations made during your late tour through the Southern States, can most likely give me the information I desire respecting the social problems now in process of solution in the South.

I have recently been thinking very seriously of settling in the South either where I could profitably cultivate cotton and sugar or both including Indian corn tobacco, rice etc, — a system of mixed husbandry as practised in most of the Northern States.

An outline of my plan

is to lease or purchase a plan-
tation and to till it by the help
of Freedmen as workmen. If
my success in the cultivation
of the soil would warrant
and in default of any provision
on the part of the State to educate
the Freedmen at public expense
I would give my workmen & their
families the benefit of common
& Sabbath school education &
churches. I am a firm believer
in the value & superiority of
educated free labor, its better
for the laborer & his employer.
I do not expect from
the present attitude of the State
that they will make any
provision to educate the
negroes. To remedy this defect
in my own vicinity & planta-
tion I would to a certain
extent like to appropriate

a reasonable share of my plantation profits. I can live here in comfort and plenty, and my desire to settle there would be to do a little good; that's my ambition, can I do it?

In addition to the above, I believe the Freedmen should be treated humanely but firmly, according to the best usage given to our Northern white laborers, holding out similar inducements [illegible]es to become valuable [illegible]is of the community. By this means and no other, do I believe this labor can be made profitable to the employer & employee; besides, an example would thereby be set from which much good might result in removing the prejudices of the Southern planters to a speedy and faithful adoption of the civilization

(over)

of the North. This is my plan in brief — In respect to the foregoing I would like to have these questions answered.

1 Can plantations in Miss. La. or Ark. be readily leased or purchased?

2 Is there a disposition on the part of freedmen to work faithfully for wages?

3 Can they be relied on when engaged for a year's service?

4 Do they prefer to work for Northern men?

5 How great a hostility among the Southern whites is there against Northern settlers and against such a system as I have proposed?

6, Is the country [illegible] practically free from Guerrillas?

If I encroaching upon official duties too much, I ha[illegible] a reply because you are no speculator nor owner but interested alike with yourself in the freedmen's welfare — Very truly Yours —

Amos H. Mylin
Lancaster Penna
Nov. 23d — 1865

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nov. 22. 1865.

My dear brother:

I see by the newspapers that you have returned to Washington. By a letter received recently from Lucie Henry I found you had been at Richmond. You enjoyed your visit very much. I am glad Rowland was able to take the trip he did with you and suppose he enjoyed it. Has he returned to Maine.

I have not heard from Lizzie & the children since they went to Washington. How are they?

I had a letter from mother a few days ago which was written in rather better spirits than usual, though I think her health is still poor. The farm still remains unsold except that I have sold it to Charles in order to prevent any trouble on the part of the R.R. creditors. I am not anxious to have my property what little I have left sacrificed for R.R. debts.

Here I am doing pretty well. Today I have made six dollars and I have made this week about ten dollars so far. On Saturday I am engaged to try a case in the Counties, which will advertise me as it is to be in a school house

and is considered quite a neighborhood matter ~~and~~ which will draw together quite a crowd. During the four weeks that I have been in practice I have made about $55 which for the first month I am satisfied with. Uncle Henry has teed for probably in very flattering terms all about this section of country. I consider it the finest portion which I have seen of the West. Here is the same New England free air which I longed so much to see and breathe when in Indiana. The society here is better than at Richmond. Education is more thoroughly disseminated among the masses and the moral tone of society is high - as high as in most New England villages. In fact the majority of the people are from New Eng. and northern New York where the Puritan element is strong. We have Congregational Churches all about us indicating origin of the people. Here for the first time since I left my New England home I found a New England Christian Sabbath. The shops are all closed and the sabbath is a day of quiet instead of a holyday as it is in most of the West. The people are thoroughly loyal and true to our national government. Copperheads are a variety seldom

here. We have very many elements of growth. The Cedar Valley is one of the best wheat growing portions of the State, We have an abundance of Oak wood for fuel. The country for three miles from the River is somewhat hilly and thickly wooded. At the City is the best water power in Iowa, which has not yet been thoroughly improved. We have to R.R.s to the Mississippi and Chicago, one via Clinton & one by the way of Dubuque. A R.R. is being constructed to St Paul, Minn. and one to connect with the North Missouri R.R. at the Iowa Bridge line, which will connect us directly with St Louis making us the largest R.R. centre in the State. I hope coming to see you and yours out here on the prairie. In a few years I trust I shall be engaged sufficiently in business to have a home and place for all my friends. Now I have a little office which I own. The front room is 12 feet square and the back room is 11 feet square. Fred & I sleep in the back room and try to enjoy life there

Give much love to Lizzie and the children.

Will you be kind enough to ascertain for me whether there is any truth in the report that the 3 years soldiers who did not which can now obtain $200 additional bounty & if so by what authority. This with me is

a very important matter and intimately connected with my getting my daily bread. I wish you would set some one to making inquiries in regard to it and inform me immediately.

Please write me when you can.

Your aff. brother

R. H. Gilmore

Richmond, R. H.,

Friendly letter

Rev. Richard Gilmore

Office General Superintendent of Education
OF FREEDMEN AND REFUGEES.

60

New Orleans, Nov 24th 1865.

Maj Genl O. O. Howard
General

I have the honor of saying that the Schools of this City & State are in a critical condition.

The leading Creoles refuse to be taxed insisting first on representation. Genl. Baird & Canby hesitate. You doubtless have their telegrams. Could not the old tax (equal on both Colors) suspended now be ordered forward to collection? Its partial payment is already causing trouble. This would give satisfaction to the masses of all grades, & as the blacks pay ~~for~~ their assessment of tax for the white schools, it is only just that the whites pay this assessment for the Col'd Schools. The complaint of the latter is without reason,

I write thus, because it will be said to have 15,000 Children progressing so finely as are those I have examined thus thoroughly turned into the Streets.

As an Expedient, I am causing the northern Associations to be appealed to in this Emergency. Many of these teachers have had no pay for the last 2 months — all that can be obtained will be needed notwithstanding what either tax may produce.

I am kept here by these matters & the perfecting of the Savings Bank. Expect to go to Mobile first of the week.

The legislature have opened their session. There is a spirit every where manifest which indicates marked disloyalty & hostility to the best interests of the negroes, & that the military in no part of the State can be dispensed with at present. Yours to command Respectfully

J. W. Alvord, Insp. Genl.

61

Portland, Me. Nov 24. 1865.

Dear Gen.

I have yours of 21st inst., The postponement of your lecture from Jan 12th to Feb. is all right, we shall endeavor to accommodate ourselves to your convenience, Please inform us as early as possible of the day on which we may expect you,

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant
M A Blanchard
for Com. Box 1844.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard
Washington
D. C.

62

Maryland Union Commission,

89 and 91
West Baltimore Street.

Baltimore, Nov. 24 1865

Major Genl O. O. Howard

Dear Sir,

It is proposed by the Maryland Branch of the American Union Commission to hold a meeting on the Evening of Thanksgiving Day. Dec 7th in one of the Churches of our City. We should be very much pleased if you would favor us with your presence and address the meeting on that occasion. By so doing you will greatly add to the interest of the meeting & the favor will be highly appreciated by the Commission. The purposes and aims of the Commission are well understood by you & have no doubt your sanction. Enclosed please find circular

With respect

Yours Truly

G. S. Griffith

Pres. Md. Br. U. Com

F. Israel

Cor. Secty

Baltimore Nov. 24th 1865

Griffith. G. S.
Trust,

Invites Genl. Howard to be present at the meeting of the Md. Branch, of the Am. Union Comn. Dec 7th 1865,

Ansd Nov. 27th 1865.

Lech Nov 24th 1865

63

Joseph Brown son of Maj. Armsted Brown Wash's master Virginia Culpepper County West Point P.O. State Mill's, Mrs Jane Brown daughter of Widdow Margetun Allen was the mistress of Wash's wife, Wash's wife before Marriage was Maria Barbour, at the time the eleventh Corps went west, heard from her, then she was at Lynchburg, where they said she would remain till the Yankies left, and then return, or be brought back She went to Lynchburg in the care of Edward Burgess who married Miss Betsey Allen sister of Mrs Jane Brown Wash's wife was a negro, a little lighter colour than himself

Joseph Brown went into the confed=erate Service and died in Richmond Va.

The old man Brown had bee
dead some time. Joseph Brown
wife, and his sister Mrs Carr
& Porter were left on the plan
station. Maj Brown's house
was five stories high Brick
painted red, with tin roof,
16 miles from culpepper court
house, 12 miles from room
Mrs Allen's house to Culpepper
these plantations laying nea
of Culpepper Court house.
Washington Camp had three
brothers and one sister came
to Washington City D.C. Jackson
Camp, Moses Camp, Armstead Camp,
and Mrs Sarah Jane Munday
wife of George Munday
Mr Steward Tell a coloured man
of Alexandria gave
Washington Camp some
information in regard to his wife
at the time he was on his way

to Tennessee with the 11th Corps
this Mr Tell was just then from
Culpepper one of Mrs Allen's
slaves, Wash has had a letter from
Alfared Coles ~~xxx~~ Capt Gilbreth's
servant, but none from Sam
Wash wishes he would
write him, I have thus tryed
to describe Wash's wife from what
he tells me, if we should sell the
farm & think Wash with his good,
industrious habits, would do well
and if we do not I think he would be
better contented if he could have
her with him, I received Lizzie's
good kind letter of the date 16th also
Grace's on the same sheet for
which I am much gratified and
shall write them soon ~~x~~ I heard
from you, all, ~~through~~ Rowland's
letter written at Washington, he
passed Leeds depot last evening
Wash was there and saw him

I do not know whether his fami
were with him or not, I am glad
he is safely returned to Farmin
-ton again. my health is good
and I am well provided, and
contented to stay here as long as
the farm remains unsold, to day I
have helped Wash put on the out
-side windows which makes it
seem so snug and warm Your Aun
Lucretia came to see me last we
with her son Rodephus who is
a resident of California, came
home to see his father and help
take care of him in his last suffe
-ings which were very agonizing
his tougue was eat off at the roots
(for sometime before he died, with
a cancer, we think he starved to
death, ~~We~~ your aunt requested
me to remember her to you
in my letters, her farm is for sale
and she leaves Maine soon I began
this letter without any address
but it is to you My Dear son Otis
and with much love and
many kisses to your wife and
Guy Grace and Jamie and
Chancey I remaine your affecte