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Head-Quarters, District of Alabama,

Montgomery, Ala., Decr. 30 1867.

My dear General

I received today your answer to my application for three months permission to delay, and it gratified me as much in evincing still the marked kindness for which I have been so much indebted to you, as by what it expressly stated.

The only feeling of regret I have in leaving here is that of leaving one's command before the fight is over. And yet I do not know but that it is the best for them. It has been for so long my duty to deal with the weak points of this people, that I fear they regard me with settled irritation. (Certain it is that they misrepresent me shamefully, or at least they do in their newspapers and Associated Press.)

Hence I think that a man may come here who will do just what I would have thought it my duty to do,

and yet not provoke half so much of angry feeling.
This view would have hardly the least importance were it
not for the danger that threatens the public peace.
Those who were here in '61 tell me that public feeling
now is just what it was then, while the commercial
and economic future is infinitely worse. Instances
are afforded daily. I don't suppose the view bears
tically upon any question except, who comes next?

But. Brig. Gen. Julius Hayden, now commanding
at Huntsville, seems to me the fittest officer of any
in the State to take my place. He is past 50 years
of age, pious, dignified, industrious and good natured.
He would take an interest in reconstruction
but would not be indiscreet as I perhaps have
been, in favoring it with zeal. He will take kindly
interest in the freedmen. He is Lieutenant Colonel
of the 15th Infantry, and is the ranking officer
after Gen. Shepherd and myself. I hope that

will be placed in charge when I leave.

I hope you fully understand how false are the Associated Press reports. They are prepared by one of the editors of the Mail. That is the paper that rejoiced over the prospective coming of the Yellow fever because Northern men would probably be early victims. There has been no "Bureau Agent tarred and vanished," no great commotion here on Christmas, nor any such thing as any of the crowd of incidents reported. As for the difficulty at Peroto, it was not very strange that men who all their lives as slaves had seen white men form Vigilance committees, should suppose that freedom gave the right to do the same.

I am preparing to report to you the prospect for next year, and hope to be able to do so ~~no~~ this week.

Very respectfully and truly yours

Wager Swayne

Major General O. O. Howard

Commissioner, Washington, D.C.

Montgo[illegible]

Dec. 30 1867

Swayne, Gen. Mager

Acknowledges receipt of Genl. Howard's answer to his application for three months delay — states at length his feelings of regret he has in leaving — and denies many of the News Paper reports with regard to affairs in his Dist. & preparing a report for the prospect for next year.

file

Not

Headquarters Fourth Military District,
(MISSISSIPPI AND ARKANSAS,)

141

Holly Springs, Miss., Decr 30th 1867

My dear Gril

I received some time since, through Genls Porter & Comstock information that Genl Grant had nominated me to the Senate for the brevet of Brig Genl - You are probably aware that up to this time I have rcd no brevet - My trouble has been personal enmity in the War Dept - prior to the accession of Genl Grant But the Genl has done me justice & of course I am anxious that defeat shall not mistake my hopes while victory is almost

Secund - As an old-
time friend & Classm
I appeal to you for
your assistance -
Yesterday Recd a
letter from an old a
influential friend of
my family, offering
to endeavor to secur
for me the active, p
influence of Senators
Morgan & Conkling
of my State, in case
personal enmity
should pursue me
into the Senate and
endeavor to prevent
my confirmation. I
want of any friend
to defend me in
absence = I do actu
fear exactly this thing
at the hands of two men

in the War Dept building
with whom I have had
personal & official
unpleasantness, & who I
fear may influence
some one Senator or false
representations to make
General Chaffee & to object
to my Confirmation, when
as you can aware
w. without a friend, my
chance would be "nil"
My friend writes me
to know to whom Senators
Morgan & Conkling can
apply in Washington
on my behalf for infor-
mation about the case
which would enable them
to defend me in case of
attack. I have taken
the liberty of mentioning
your name in connection
with Horace Porter & Comstock

I pray of your sense of
Justice, fair play & kindness
to accept the position
and in case them gentlemen
should call upon you or
you should otherwise have
the opportunity of speaking
for me without trouble to
yourself, that you will do it.
I know, from your nature
that you consider the best
part of the great power &
influence attaching to your
name & position - as both
the opportunity of aiding
in righting wrongs - and
my case if, ever, you have
inquired into it at all, will
appeal to you from that point
of view - I know the great
labors & responsibilities of
your office & I do not ask
of you to seek out or accept
any trouble in the matter - but
that if opportunity should offer
you will speak of me as a friend.
Trusting I have not asked too
than you will cheerfully accord.

Dennysville, Maine,
Dec. 30 1867

Genl. O. O. Howard, Treas. of the Building Com. of Cong. ch. Washington, D.C., Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed, eight dollars, ($8,) collection in Cong. Soc'ty Dennysville, to aid in building the Cong. church in Washington.

Truly yours
Charles Whittier
Pastor.

Dennysville Maine
Dec. 30th 1867

Whittier Rev. Charles

Encloses $ donat[illegible]
Congl. Society [illegible]
Congl. Club Wash[illegible]

attended to

144

Holly Springs Miss.
Dec. 30th 1867

Dear Genl.

Genl. Ames is quite desirous of being detached to serve on your staff. I certainly hope you will avail yourself of his services if possible. He is just the officer you need at Washington, and I am sure will be of great value to you. He is fully and heartily in sympathy with the work of the Bureau and really in earnest in it. I do not know of an other officer whom I think would be of so much service to you. He can be spared from his regiment as there are three field officers now with it, and all the Company officers are present

except as Captain. He has been serving as Gen. Cav. Staff as A. A. G. but is relieved and will join his regiment, and take command of a mass detachment, at Jackson in a few days. It seems to me that there is no more available officer for you and I hope that you may be able to secure him. It will be very gratifying to him. I will write you a brief report of matters as I find them from this point.

Yrs. very truly
F. D. Sewell
A. A. G.

Maj. Gen. Howard.

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Cincinnati
December 30th 1867.

General O. O. Howard
General.

The committee appointed to make arrangements for a meeting of the officers of the late Army of the Cumberland called for the 6th of February 1868. at Cincinnati. for the purpose of effecting an organization to be known as the "Society of the Army of the Cumberland." extend to you a cordial and hearty invitation to meet with us on that occasion.

We sincerely hope
you may not find your
engagements of such a
nature; at that time as
to render it impossible
for you to be present with
us on that occasion

Very respectfully
Your obt Servt
Henry M. Leist.

Lon La of Com of Arrangements.

55 Chambers St
New York 30 Dec 1869

Maj Gen O. O. Howard
Washington
DC

My dear Sir

Thanks to
than I would gladly and sincerely
enclose my check on the Metro National
Bank for $50 to aid the Congl Church
building at Washington.

The commercial business of the
Country has not generally prospered
during the past two years and hence
the need of official effort to complete
the noble enterprise with which you
are so honorably identified.

Wishing you the compliments of
the season I am with great respect
Very truly yours

William Ellis

Enfield Massachusetts
Dec 30. 1867.

Gen O. O. Howard
Chairman Building Com
Dear Sir: Enclosed please find ten dollars ($10.) the same being a contribution from the Cong Sabbath School in this place to the Congregational Church in Washington. D. C. We regret that we are unable to have a larger share in your noble enterprise —
Please acknowledge receipt —
With much respect
Your Obt Servant
W. B. Kimball
Treasurer

69

Monson, (Maine), Dec 31, 69

Dear Sir:—

I would have been glad to have answered your call long ere this, but could not well do it.—

"Better late than never!" Wishing you success in your benevolent enterprise, whose object is to establish a Congregational Church in our National Capital, I am—

Yours, in Christian Bonds,

R. W. Emerson

P.S. Please send a receipt acknowledging the money I send to you, directed to "Monson, Maine." R.W.E.

Monson Maine
Dec. 31st 1867

Emerson A. W.

Enclosed 10 $ to aid in erecting 1st Cong. Ch. Mass. &c

attended to

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Gen. O. O. Howard

Dear Bro.

Enclosed please find check for $28.17, the contribution of the First Cong'l Paineville, Ohio, Church Sunday School, to the First Cong'l Church of Washington in aid of its church erection. With prayer that God will bless you & prosper your work in the capital city of the nation.

Yours fraternally
(Rev) H. C. Hayden

Paineville, O.
Dec. 31, 1867.

Tiffin, Seneca Co. O. Dec. 31st 1867

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

Dear Sir,

The Ladies Aid Soldiers Society of Tiffin, have closed up their matters, and find in their hands, One hundred & twenty eight (128) dollars, which by their request, I enclose to you in draft.

They rely on your judgment, to dispose of the amount, so as to benefit the needy & suffering Freedmen.

Please acknowledge the receipt.

Very Respectfully
Henry Ebbert

Office [illegible]

Dec. 31st 1867

Ebbert, Henry

State that the Ladies Soldier's Aid Society of Tiffin have closed up their matters, and find on hand $125, which sum at their request he send to Genl. Howard, they rely on the Genl's judgement to dispose of the amount, so as to benefit the needy and suffering Freedmen.

2

answ.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

Washington City, Dec 31 1867.

My dear Mother.

This is the last day of the year and having a few moments to myself I thought I would drop you a few words - I wish you a "happy new year" you will already have entered upon the new year before this reaches you. It is snowing very hard today - but probably you can beat us in the snow drifts - Clancy is playing with Walter very loud - but I think they are happy - They come at the dark Mass at the dining-room table when you used to eat with us. Johnny is up stairs with Grace. Jiggie has just come in from a short shopping expedition, she looks

very cold. Harriet is still with us & has just come in to fix the curtain. Tom goes up to Higgins room to fix the fire. All goes on as usual. The president instructs our volunteer officers. Their seats open. Swayne in Ala. to his regiment to get them away from that State. I have no idea that he means to allow any reconstruction but his own. We shall have a new President one of these days. I hope it may be a logical one, whether Republican, Chase or Colfax or some conservative so called. I hope Wade is comfortable in his new house with his numerous family. I am hoping you may decide to come on with Jamie before long. Charles is very happy with his comfortable

rooms beautiful wife &c. &c. He is mustered out to day from the Army. I found him about 1 P.M. today at his dwelling, dressed in a tail coat, thinking about resuming citizen life in earnest. The change is nominal rather than real as he will remain on duty with me the same as before muster out. I hope Lincoln is a dear good boy & needs to be watched well every day. I come about him going over the hill to school if he will only rest at home. Our new house has the windows in but is not yet plastered & cannot be till warmer weather begins. Mrs. has just come in, says "wish you a happy New Year". Tell her Kitty & I have been with Prance all Thur. The Department of the Interior today is shut on O'clock – We were going

over to the Barry farm to dedicate a schoolhouse but the ceremony was postponed on account of the storm. We are to give for Scripture a donation party tonight this week down to our little boy. Chauncey just made a mistake and found himself down in the snow. What is the name of the little boy with the little boy of whom you spoke to me - he will make a good man if good people do their duty by him - Wishing you the best of God's blessings -

Your aff. son.

Otis

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