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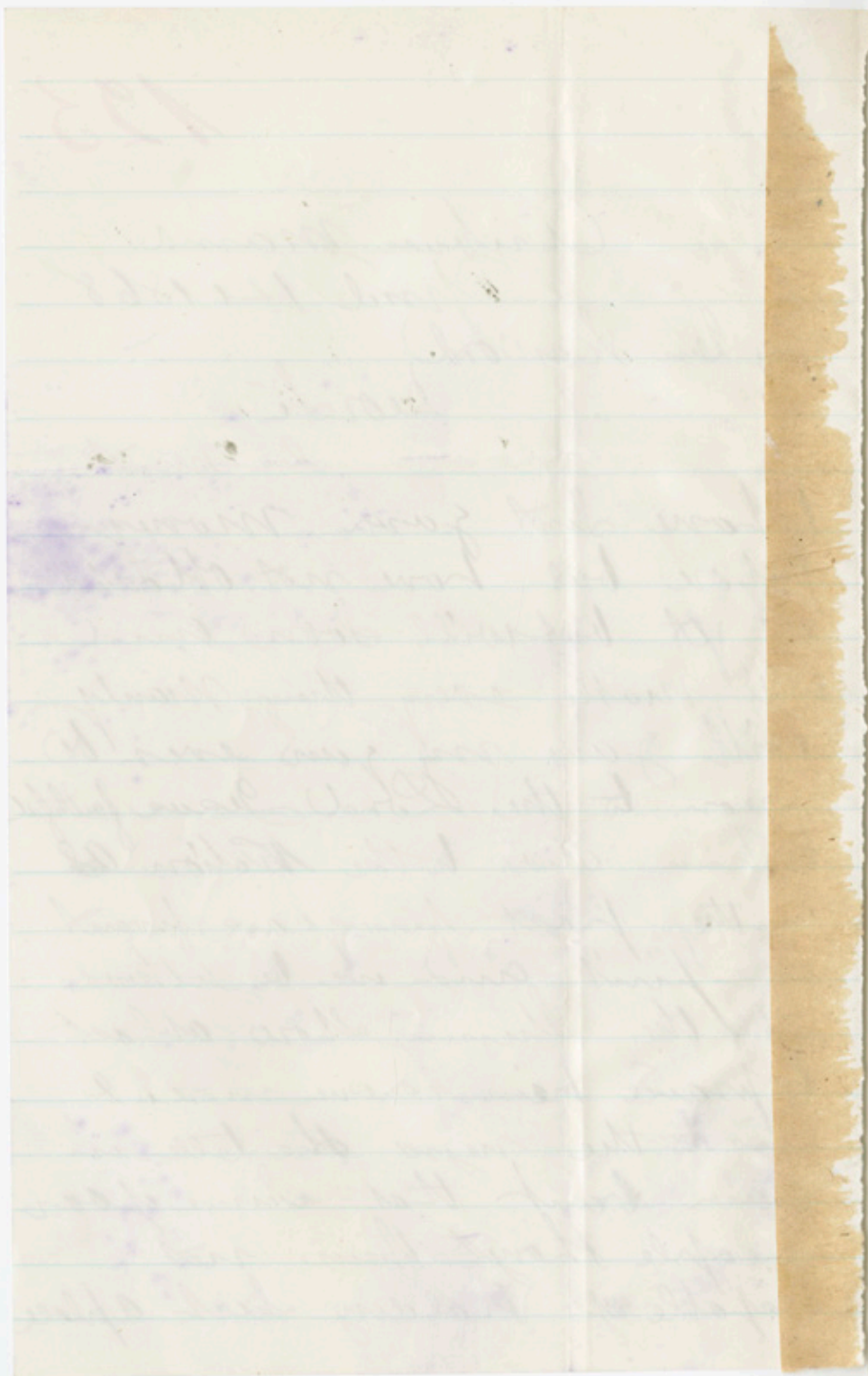
Arbun Maine

April 12 1868

My dear Harbord


Dear Sir

I must
to have sent you money
before but have not obtained
it yet but will soon and
will make every thing wanty
with you my you ever be
near to the Lord Jesus faithful
to him and to the Nation and
in the past few years fervant
in spirit and we be pithed
at the shining shore at last
to praise him forever more. I
said to the negro the teller in
your tent that some of our
people thought them not
capable of holding such a place



8271 3/11 1868
He said we are going to
live that down I've told
some parties of that in
Boston and here

Yours truly
Charles O. Stevens



S. J. Q. Q. H. Val. 1, 1868

Auburn Maine

April 14th 1868

Stevens Leah O.

Hopes to be able to
send that money soon.
etc, etc,



126
175 Saratoga Street Baltimore Md
April 14 1868

My Genl. O. Howard
General

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of April 10th but for your request that I should reply, I should not resume a correspondence which I had, (upon reflection and the advice of friends) concluded to discontinue. But General, your letter so forcibly convinces me of my first idea, that I cannot in justice to myself, or yourself remain silent. My former belief to-day, as it was two months ago is, that you have been systematically deceived from the very inception of this most unpleasant and to me, most unfortunate affair, and my only object in addressing influential parties was to bring the subject before your personal attention, and evade the manipulation of your staff. I had then, as I have to say perfect confidence in your abstract sense of justice, but my experience in Army affairs, and particularly those of a Genl. Officer's Hd. Qrs. led me to suppose, (as experience has confirmed) that you would leave all to your Adj. Genl, and tacitly accept any construction he might report, - the duties of Adj. Adjutants being to stand between the commanding officer and fact - Now General, as I am more than ever convinced that you have never been informed of the merits of this ~~case~~ case, - as Mr Elliott writes me after an interview with you that he knew nothing of the merits of the case - And as your last letter plainly

Exhibit, that you have given no attention to the papers furnished by me and others - and a Genl Gregory has enjoyed the privilege of your private ear, to my detriment, and as your Adjutant has from the first exhibited ~~from the beginning~~ the most demoniac determination to present me to you in the most unfavorable manner possible. I will now, give you a brief history of the whole affair, which I desire you to consider as under oath, for I would testify to every word of it before the Bar of God.

My relations with Genl Gregory, up to within a few months, were of the most cordial, and friendly nature, I was more favorably prepossessed with a man, as his Exterior and professed Course of Conduct coincided with my ideas of justice to the Freedmen, I was born and Abolitionist, and inherited the same from both father and mother, clear back to "Plymouth Rock" I was thrown out of a splendid situation in Washington for advocating justice to negroes among other things, and I found the Bureau as a field where I could enjoy the society of others who were not afraid to be called "Nigger lovers." Genl Gregory and I affiliated perfectly, and it was a subject of no little comment that he should take into apparent confidence a Comparative stranger and assign him to the most - by far the most important duty in his office. Everything went well for a time, I attended to my duties under special orders from the Genl and allowed me to receive no instructions from Col. Wiegand, who ordered me to show him, for his signature every letter I wrote, which I scrupulously did, and I made it a point to do.

on my own responsibility, but requesting a verbal order, (I have ^{since} been severely ~~condemned~~ denounced for not asking a written order for every little transaction of this kind, & because I could not furnish such written orders it is denied that I ever received verbal ones - is it customary for you to issue to your clerks a formal order every time you wish a letter written?)

Well among other things, Genl Gregory had filed over three ^{hundred} colored claims for State of Md bounty. These claims were solicited from the colored soldiers with the most specious promises that they should be paid ~~that~~ collected without charge to the men and they were warned against going to claim Agents and being "hounded". Genl Gregory's course of action was so repulsive and bullying that he utterly disgusted the Annapolis Authorities & they passed a law excluding the Bureau from collecting claims. & The negroes, being informed of this naturally wished to withdraw their claim, and put them into the hands of some one whom the law recognized as a lawful attorney, but Genl Gregory, persistently and in the face of everything, insisted that they should leave their claims with him, and told them that he would collect them in spite of the law, (which he knew he could not do) and by thus doing, he month after month kept these poor men waiting - simply to gratify his dogged stubbornness when other parties were collecting claims every day, ^{and} would have collected these if the men could have got their papers. I went to Genl Gregory time ^{and} again and represented to him that men were daily coming to me for their papers and presenting them

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receipts, and urging him to make some arrangement to transfer the claims to some good men whom the Authorities would recognize before it was too late, as they were paying them, and the next Legislature would be all Rebel, and no bounties would be paid to Colored Union Soldiers, Genl Gregory would invariably put me off with some footy excuse, and the month after month glided along, the men were becoming indignant at such conduct, and I was compelled to ~~be~~ daily, the most degrading reflections upon the claim division, over which I presided. The discharges were finally sent back from Annapolis and turned over to me, or rather left by Maj. Von Schirach in the desk he used, before leaving the office. In the mean time, a new State Govt was elected, thoroughly enmical to the Freedmen, and all hope of the Bureau was cut off - if indeed any further cutting of the law referred to could be enacted - The discharges became valuable, as there were a few privileged Rebels who by some arrangement had got the chance of collecting a few claims (probably on shares) while it was ostensibly given out that no more claims would be paid, thus these discharges were valuable to these Rebels, as they could by misrepresenting to the Freedmen, buy ^{discharges} for a trifle, and go right to Annapolis and collect the claim, and put it in their pocket (as corruption fee) Every Indian made to get these discharges. I was repeatedly approached by agents, and inducements held out to act in their interest which I could easily have done, as Genl Gregory left it to my discretion in giving up discharges to the men, and I could easily have made several thousand dollars by acting wrongly, Bribes after bribe was offered, promptly refused (as I can prove) At last, I became convinced that every means would be resorted to, to obtain these discharges. I went to Genl. Gregory, and told him calmly, but with vehement earnestness that "these discharges were not safe in my desk as any simple key would fit it, and ~~at~~ when we left the office at night there was nobody but a most untrustworthy messenger in charge - One who stands charge before the Grand Jury ^{with} for perjury, and who has

made repeated attempts to enter into arrangements with claim agents to furnish them these same discharges for a stipulated sum, I was so informed a few days ago) I communicated to Guil Gregory my suspicions, ^{and} told him that the office was ^{not} a secure place for such valuable papers, and urged him to procure a safe, or deposit them some where else, - this I did, both to secure the discharges ^{and} to get them out of my desk for I felt firmly convinced that strenuous efforts would be made to obtain them, but Guil Gregory ridiculed my suspicions, and utterly refused to acced to my request,

One day a man called for his discharge, and I told him I would see if the Guil was willing to give it up, but on looking for it, I failed to find it. I immediately took the man to Guil Gregory and reported the facts - that I could not find the discharge though the books showed that it ought to be among the rest, The Guil ordered me to make a thorough search for it which proved fruitless, and the discharge was not found. Guil Gregory then informed the man (or I think instructed me to inform him), that "the discharge was probably mislaid, and he might call again." I took this opportunity to again call Guil Gregory's attention to ^{the} insecurity of these discharges, - detailing all the circumstances which made them valuable property, and in the most earnest manner beseeching him to relieve me of the responsibility of them, stating that all I could do was to lock them in my desk and leave them at night

and, ~~and~~ that the office was often left unlocked ~~for~~
 and alone, so that anybody could step in and
 commit depredations, - that I had once found
 the office with the hall door simply locked, - the
 front windows open, and the side windows ~~unlocked~~
 so that anybody could shove them right up and step
 in of from the side street, without trouble, and that
 I watched over an hour to see if anyone would ~~come~~
 to ~~unlock~~ look up. I waited until after dark,
 the fire place and stove were heaping full of coal
 and no one around, at last. I could not wait
 longer so I pushed up a side window ^{along side of which}
 lay books and records (that anybody could have
 stolen without going in), and stepped in, ~~and~~
 proceeded to shut up the office, after
 which I was going home when the messenger
 appeared in the utmost consternation at being
 thus caught. All this I detailed to Genl.
 Gregory, as proof that the discharges were not safe,
 and again asked him to take them out of my desk
 and place them in some safe place, but he laughed
 at me, and ordered me "to keep them in my desk."

After this, ~~the~~ discharges were lost daily, and
 I took what remained and wrapped them in
 a yellow paper and tied them with red tape, and
 took them to Genl Gregory's desk and as a special
 favor to me, as well as a justice to the owners, brought
 him to take them from me, as I was only a clerk

with no power to act except by his express order, and I did not wish longer to be placed in a position where I might ultimately be blamed for obeying his orders, but Genl Gregory ordered me peremptorily to "take them ~~back~~ and put them in my desk, and keep them there" This Genl Gregory acknowledges, as Capt Knower has already testified in his report to Genl Brooks, (which I doubt whether you have been allowed to see) I at this time seriously contemplated resigning my position, as I plainly saw ~~the~~ where the thing was leading, but I have a family that depend upon me for their bread and I felt that I could not in justice to them resign and run the risk of losing all employment; as an employe of the Bureau is virtually proscribed ^{here} in Rebel Baltimore. Genl. Gregory, shortly after this was mustered out, (and, skipping over the disgusting solicitude which he exhibited relative to the loss of his salary and the little thought that he manifested for the ultimate good of the Freedmen) I wondered if he intended to leave business in its mixed up and disjointed situation, - stepping out of a muddle his ~~own~~ own willful misrepresentations had brought about - and leaving the poor claimants to get the best justice they could from an old regular Army officer (who, dared not draw his breath without examining the "regulations" to see if it was allowed) I soon perceived however that this was precisely what he intended to do, and I ~~at~~

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confess that I felt all the indignation of my nature roused, especially as I had made out the great proportion of the claims, and, by Genl. Gregory's order, told them that they should be collected free of charge, and most of, or rather some the claims had been made out twice, through no blame of the negroes, and they put to double expense of execution, I was daily applied to by these parties for the justice I had been made to assure them they should receive, and Genl. Gregory was about to sneak out, and get rid of all responsibility of the trouble he was solely responsible for, & then wrote you a letter, asking you to grant me an interview, as I knew Genl. Brooks would naturally come to you for his immitatory instructions, and I knew you did not know the existing circumstances, (Genl. Gregory told me it was "none of your business") and could not, of course act intelligently on the premises; but you saw fit to disregard my letter and did not answer it.

Shortly after Genl. Brooks took command, ~~he~~ he saw that there was something disjuncted somewhere, but could not get at it. men were constantly coming in, and demanding what was manifestly their just rights, and he found himself powerless to act. He called me up to his desk and asked me to inform him all I knew about the affair connected with the matter causing trouble. In response to this request I furnished him the information in the form of the charges, which have been "investigated" (?) And now General comes the gist of the whole affair. In a day or two, an officer (I suppose he was, though he brought nothing to prove it but breath that ~~he~~ smelt so strong of bad whisky that he was compelled to stand a respectful distance) appeared and

I (instead of Genl Gregory) was summoned like a criminal to face him, and, doubtless contrary to his expectation I neither fainted nor went into fits, over his terrible presence, (including breath), but I faced his would be scrutinizing glance, and answered his pompous question with truth, which was so plain, and ~~at~~ conclusive against his client that he took little pains to conceal his perturbation, and I was dismissed from his august presence, with anything but awe, and something of contempt mingled; ~~with~~, and I could not but inwardly wonder whether he belonged to the "Howard Division of the Sons of Temperance!!" which I am informed is a requisite for a Clerkship in your office in spite of ~~the~~ such examples as the one in point.

This "Inspector (?)!!" reported to your Head Quarters, that something was or rather had been, wrong in the claims division here, and forthwith came a letter from you that "Hildreth, the Clerk, would be discharged." This surprised nobody, as it was in strict accordance with military parlance, and military justice (?) (which last is but another term for phenomenon) I concluded however, that as Genl Howard had received the laudations of the entire County ^{as having the} ~~who had the~~ moral courage to do right in spite of being an army officer I would make a personal appeal to you, and a circumstance soon occurred to give me the op-

opportunity. I found that an arrangement was being
 hatched up for giving the claims remaining in the
 Bureau, to a favorite of that institution, who has
 a reputation as the "Negroes friend" and allowing him
 to make money out of them, after the faith of the
 Bureau had been solemnly and repeatedly pledged
 that they should be "collected free of all expense to
 the Claimants, and a Circular to that effect issued
 with the words "free of expense" italicized, I concluded
 that as the Negroes had been warned against "Claim
 Agents" who would swindle them! and had been
 told that the Bureau was the place to save their money,
 that it would be infamous to thus, use ~~the~~ its
 power to turn them all over, against their will, to
 a "Claim Agent"!! who was authorized to do the
 very thing that Genl. Gregory had stoutly refused
 to do for a year, and until but \$ about sixty of the
 discharge remained, and thus prevented them from
 getting their money legitimately and without selling
 out to Sharps at a ruinous discount. I was
 determined that if the Bureau was to be thus
 used to teach the Negroes the truth of the old
 adage that "White man is very ~~was~~ uncertain",
 the very institution, instituted to "Elevate protect, and
 Educate the Freedmen, was thus to turn against
 them and betray their interests, and - and virtually
 swindle them by the wholesale, that I would
 not be identified with it a moment.

and I accordingly wrote a note to Genl Brooks stating that "Every ~~at~~ Colored soldier who left his claim in this Office was assured by Genl Gregory or by his order that it should be collected free of all charge, and that Genl Gregory had often in my presence assured them that 'in any event some arrangement would be made whereby they should be collected without any expense to them, and that if any arrangement was made with Judge Bond, whereby ~~it~~ he was allowed a fee for engineering them through and that fee came out of the Claimant money the faith of the Bureau was broken, and I could not continuously remain in such an institution!" This fell like a bomb shell into their camp, and a sensation was immediately perceptible, - Caucuses were held in various corners of the Room, and it was plain that something had leaked out, which they did not anticipate, and the idea was suddenly abandoned and I believe it was arranged that the Bureau should keep its word (must have cost an effort) and pay the fee itself. I was called upon the inquisitorial stand, and interrogated as to my knowledge of the affair, "and what business it was of mine anyhow" to which I replied that it was the duty of all men, even clerks to do positive right by obtaining from wrong themselves

and negative ~~being~~ ^{being} ~~trough~~ ^{trough} by preventing others from doing wrong to the detriment of the helpless! I was informed sneeringly that my Conscience was remarkably tender, (all of which I knew before) and was sent back to my desk (and allowed to resume the duties of three men, as I had performed for six months, and receiving from the Government one hundred dollars a month, for what it doing what they had previously paid four hundred for having done). I immediately telegraphed to you asking an interview with you, to which you replied "Come and see me in the morning." I accordingly acted upon what I considered an order to travel, as I went solely upon Govt. business, I proceeded to your office, and was informed that you had gone to Philadelphia, I did not understand this, as I had your telegram in my pocket ordering me to call and see you at a stated time, I thought if you had been suddenly summoned away, and was told that you knew several ^{days} before that you were going, how this can be reconciled with your appointment with me. I am still unable ~~with~~ to tell. It is true, I happen to know exactly what transpired in your office, from a person who was present on that occasion, and heard the whole conversation, but I do not deal in gossip, and I leave it to you to settle with your own Conscience, I have preserved this telegram as a relic. I however saw on the occasion of my first visit, an individual who I am informed, commenced life as a minister of the Gospel, but foretook his high calling for "filthy lucre" and made his ~~to~~ "grand entry" into the world of gain by being Court-martialed for some nefarious transaction.

and sentenced to be reprehended by the Commission, which reprehended. I believe concluded with promoting him to the "high on a throne of lofty state" as a. a. a. g. in the Bureau, (I leave it to his conscience to determine what answer he will make when ~~it~~^{it} is demanded of him by divine lips "Where are thy jewels")

This man gave me to understand that you had delegated him "power to of attorney" to adjust the matters at issue, to which I promptly informed him ~~that~~ that I was not inclined to accept the substitute. This evidently nettled him and is probably the reason of his malignity as persistently exhibited - one would imagine his experiences would lead him to "tread lightly" on such occasions. I returned to Baltimore, with my ideas of Genl Howards way of keeping appointments, a "little mixed".

Some time after this, when I was assured you were "at home" I concluded Genl Gregory had been allowed ample opportunity to tell his version of the story, and was having it all ~~my~~ his own ~~his own~~ way. So I made a second attempt to gain admittance to your presence. I went to the room of the Ex-divine, "a. a. a. g." and informed him of the object of my mission. He immediately went to your room and told you I "stood without, knocking" and I heard you say

"I don't want to see him on that business" he (the "aag")
 came out and told me you had ordered him
 (the "aag") to see me in your place. "I replied
 "very well Genl, at your Convenience" These were
 my precise, and only words. I then sat down
 and you found business which took you to the
 War Department. I "waited and waited,"
 for near an hour for the Convenience of the
 "aag" to arrive, but when about to bow
 myself out and give up the job. You
 suddenly returned, and the "aag" jumped
 up and ~~immediately~~ ushered me into your room
 with an immense gusto, and informed you
 that I "had refused to confer with him" and
 demanded to see you. This astonished me beyond
 all measure, as I did not know then, that
 his role was to get me before you in the
 most unfavorable manner possible, so
 to insure a speedy rumpus, in which part he
 was decidedly "well up." You Endeavored to
 bluff me off in the first place by informing
 me to my face that "you believed me to be a
 rascal," there are the precise words you used.
 I then asked you in a very respectful manner
 (much more so than your rude insolent manner
 warranted) whether it was possible for you
 to discharge me for stealing Discharges, which

I had done all in my power to take charge of them
 to you replied as follows "~~You remarked~~" "Your
 remark is impudent, and if you were an officer
 I should put you under arrest" this was
 what you are pleased to call, "treating you with
 insult" You seem to think it is all right to
 call me a "rascal," but my attempt to
 defend myself, is pitifully styled "impudent"
 "Of what meat hath our Caesar eaten, that he
 hath become so great" that all men must stand
 his insolent abuse, under penalty of being
 condemned "impudent" if they dare defend
 themselves? You forgot that our American
 Citizen ranks an army officer, in the ratio
 that the public, rank a public servant,
 You ordered me to ~~return~~ "go back to Baltimore"
 remarking that you would "act upon any
 paper I might send, but you prefaced
 this by informing me that "nothing could
 convince you that Genl Gregory had
 done wrong" This was encouraging to comman-
 operations upon surely, but experience has
 proven this to be true, I returned to Baltimore
 and have since done all I could to unearth
 the charges from the dusty pigeon holes in which
 they had been placed with "military precision"
 with the evident intent of remaining there,
 I finally succeeded in getting them

sent to Washington, — they were sent back and an investigation ordered, In compliance with which each person in the office was ordered to report upon charges of which they never heard, and of which they were furnished no copy, or original, the consequence was, they naturally reported that they knew nothing of the affair, these reports, (being extremely military and worthy of the "Circumlocution office" in ascertaining "how not to do it") were bundled up and "respectfully returned" to your Hd. Qrs. This ends the story. I endeavored to bring you to believe my sworn statement by proving a good record, but the nearer I came to proving my charges, the less you seemed ^{to} like it & you had prejudged the case by discharging me, and sending Genl Gregory to the bosom of his family for a month, and draw two hundred dollars from the government for his services, — "God save the mark!" When this month was up, and the idea of going to Texas "didn't suit" I understood he was ordered to inspect Maryland and Delaware — this in view of the fact that there is but one office Md. and none in Delaware is decidedly rich — wouldn't this sound well in print, ² — wouldn't it be well to apply some of this money to the payment of some of the Freedmen who lost their bounty by his operations? But I will now close by a short review of your last letter, which was probably written with mature deliberation, as it is dated April 10th and reached me this morning, — being over three days in process of concoction. You began with stating that Mr Elliott, had called upon

You, on which occasion you doubtless told him
 I was "imprudent" but forgot to state that you
 were grossly insulting at our interesting interview
 aforementioned. You next state that I charge
 you with a "purpose to cover it up" of the
 truth of this you are a better judge than any
 one I know of. You next state that you have
 "taken every military means to insure ^(me) justice"
 which ~~me~~ by being translated, means "how not to do it"
 in which you have met with the most unprecedented
 success, and should be recorded as a great military
 achievement! You next state that "I lost
 the soldier's discharge, this of course is false, as
 I have abundantly proven, if you were willing to
 be convinced. The next, and doubtless in your mind
 the worst thing you charge me with is, "preferencing" ^{charges}
 against Guel, Gregory & Waj Polenius, which I madly
 followed up by committing the gross crime of proving
 them conclusively! You next say, I "visited
 you in person, and treated you with insult, here
 again you all unconsciously forget to state your in-
 solence to me!" The next crime you mention
 is my writing to members of Congress (strange
 impudence!) and ascertained that I had proved
~~my~~ my innocence, - (you probably meant Gregory's
 guilt) And you end this delectable letter

(which the "a a a g" probably wrote, and you signed without reading) by asking me to state what you can possibly do that you have not done to give me a trial; this is the first intimation I have had that I was being tried. I supposed it was E. W. Gregory, and a certain Tenton were the ones on trial. This attempt of yours to ignore the crimes of the really guilty and trump up petty nonsense against me is to perjure and contumacious to notice, and ~~me~~ is on a par with your talk about my "imprudence"! I do not want any new "Board" appointed to investigate, and I never knew before that any such board had ever been appointed at all, and I have never been apprized of the result of its deliberations. I only write this letter because you asked me to, and now that I have given you the unvarnished truth, and endeavored to "nothing extenuate or set down aught in malice" and if some of my language should seem harsher than you would naturally like, reflect a moment and see if it is not just. reflect upon the long series of injustices, wrong, reviling, and insults I have endured for the truth's sake, and see if you would have said or done less. Think what a course you have pursued, in discharging a man for trying to purify the Bureau, and

bring to your notice the most shameful wrong. How would you stand before the world, if all these things were published? you would utterly fail to convince the sober tax-payers, that it was just or right to discharge a man for doing for one hundred dollars a month the work before costing four hundred, and retaining another man for doing worse than nothing and living at home two thirds of the time - at a salary of two hundred dollars a month. Keeping men "on the rolls" for doing nothing should have ceased when the war ceased, if there is any surplus funds in the Bureau they should go toward helping the Freedmen, for whose benefit Congress appropriated it, such things will be known, you can use your power to discharge me and deprive an honest working man of the chance to make a plain living, but you cannot shut his mouth, nor proscribe his pen. I have doubtless surprised you already by showing you I have friends, and, (as you are only middle aged) you may live to be further surprised. You ~~are~~ have my permission to publish this letter if you wish in Bath for instance - But I hope you will not feel called upon to address me again until you are ready to apologize for your

the repeated insults and false charges con-
tained in your last, and now I
would seriously recommend you to reflect
upon your course, and make it a matter of
conscience as I ever have. Reflect upon
the "golden rule," The "unjust judge" The
final account we must all give of the deeds
done in the body, and see if your skirts are
quite clear. I entertain not the slightest
ill-will, and if you were to assure me that
you had been deceived, and misinformed and
had acted upon the advice of others, and
been deceived, and was ready to meet me
a fellow Christian and do right, I would be
glad enough to forget the past, and, only
too happy to re-assume my old belief, that
(as my father used to express it) "God ~~Howard~~
was of the Salt of the Earth" But you must
see that you have much to clear up, before
I can thus acknowledge you. If you
would like to see a letter I received from the
Comptroller of the Treasury (a Union officer)
have no objection to your doing so.

Yours &c

C. O. Hildreth

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Washington, D.C.
April 14, 1868.

O. O. Howard,
Maj. Gen. U. S. A.

Dear Sir:—

Having
other uses for my money, I
desire to withdraw the one
thousand dollars I loaned
you as treasurer of the first
Congregational Church of this
city, and therefore hereby noti-
fy you, in accordance with
the agreement made by you
at the time I made the loan,
that upon two weeks notice
the money could be withdrawn.

If it will be convenient to accommodate me with the money before the expiration of the two weeks I shall be obliged to you.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
L. E. Bailey

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April 15, 1868

My dear General

I hear it rumored that
Genl Brooke asks you to give
him new counsel for the
Bureau here - I should if
you contemplate complying
with his request ask you
to temper your humble
servant. I have to keep a
small freedmans Bureau
for my own, because of my
connection with the unfortunate
people who have wrongs with
no one to redress them, and
my bureau is a source of immense

annoyance & no profit to me
I might as well attend to
the whole as a part & would
be put to no much greater
trouble

I would call & see
you tomorrow when I come
to Washington but you
will be celebrating the Anniver-
-ary and I shall be very
busy in the Court of Claims
& Treasury or the Revenue
Dept. I have only heard the
matter as a rumor,

Yours truly

Hugh L. Bond

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James Covington
 Leeward Co. Nebraska.

April 15. 1868

Maj Gen. O O Howard
 Washington D.C.

Sir,

I hope
 you will excuse me for not writing
 you before. but being very busy
 since coming to this state is
 all the excuse I can offer.

I arrived in Nebraska City in
 just fourteen days time after leav-
 ing Washington. I came by the way
 of St. Louis Mo. and that accounts
 for my being so long on the way.
 I was rather disappointed in finding
 both parties away from the City
 that I had lectured to. Judge Holley
 in Colorado and Mr. Buckels in
 Cheyenne City. I was also much

surprised in finding that-I could
not get a team even of open
any thing less than \$200.00.
I could not do so after consulting
several different parties-I came to
the conclusion that-I would
to abandon my intention of
-moving your land and I
take one a Homestead and
on it. And that-I have now
done. I had a farm on Cedar
Creek plenty of Wood and water.
It is about 90 miles from
city- and 85 miles from
the Capital of the State. And I
that-I shall come out all right
(at least-I hope so) although I
to start- on a small scale.

I understand that-there are
several Gentlemen in Astoria
who wish to purchase your land.
If you should wish to dispose
of-I will ascertain the value.

land in Cass Co. which I think
is abt \$2.00 per acre

I have been greatly mistaken
in the west as far. people say the
West - is the place for a young man
to go so it - is if he has money.
but - unless he has money he had
better stay away. for there are
Thousands & Thousands of young
men that flock to the West & have
just enough to get them there. And
then their is land - one out of a
hundred that can get work even
for their board. And the rest of
them get away the best - they can.

General I am very much obliged to
you for the interest - you manifested
in my behalf. And I hope to live
long enough to repay your kindness
with interest. If there is any thing
I can do for you out - here I shall
be happy to do so. Please remember
me to your Brother and Mr Mathey

I shall be very happy indeed to
hear from you at any time.

As there is nothing more of any
importance to write I will close.

Please accept-very truly

Yours Respectfully

Frank J. Manning

My Address will be.

Frank J. Manning

Beaver Crossing

Seward Co. Nebraska

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Personal

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Nashville Tenn April 15/68

General

Before leaving Nashville I wish to make a confession to you, and atone as far as possible for errors & sins committed by me while connected with the Bureau.

The enclosed draft for \$369.⁰⁰ drawn in favor of the Commission, is money which I obtained in a fraudulent manner from the Government, during the months of Dec 1867 & January 1868, and while acting as Chief Clerk in the Disbursing Office. Taking advantage of Col Reman's kindness, who trusted me implicitly in all things relating to the office. - I made alterations in the following Vouchers - One of Summons & Phillips Abst B. Dec 1867. Changed from \$4⁵⁰ to \$64⁵⁰. - The following vouchers were

Changed in Jan'y 1885. - No. 36. Abst B. Wallis
Shelby. Changed from \$35⁰⁰ to \$135⁰⁰ No 102
Abst B. Levi Trouble Changed from \$30⁶⁰ to
\$235⁶⁰ And No 7. Abst A. Chline & Son
Changed from \$15⁰⁰ to \$80⁶⁰. These amounts
are all covered by the enclosed draft.

I am lead to make this confession
by the events that have taken place
here in the last few weeks. They have
made me look at this matter in its true
light, and showed me what a great crime
I had committed.

I decided first to return
this money in an anonymous Communica-
tion to General Howard, so that I would still
have my good name left me. but upon re-
flection I decided that as there was a
possibility of the discrepancies being dis-
covered here. I decided to inform you
before leaving, of the whole affair. trusting

to your kindness of heart. not to have me prosecuted - after making this voluntary confession

I have been in the Bureau ever since it was first organized in Tennessee, and this is the only money I have ever obtained in an illegal manner from the Government, or from any source, And what I have suffered mentally these last few weeks, has proved so severe a punishment, that I can assure you I will never be dishonest again.

I trust that you will not make this confession known to any one, excepting General Horrold.

Col Reman's papers will pass the Treasury Department without any trouble, and I greatly desire that he should not know in what a bad way I have abused his confidence in me.

I trust General you will use your influence with General Horrold, to have

the matter dropped with this confession
my mental sufferings have more than
punished me for what I have done.
And if publicity is given to this
matter, it is my ruin.

Trusting to your kindness

I remain General

Very Respectfully

A. L. Dean

Brig Maj Gen W. T. Cadwallader

Asst Commissioner

Nashville Tenn