76

Tuscumbia Ala.
May 23. 1868.

Major Genl. O. O. Howard U.S.A.
Washington. D.C.

General. You will please pardon me for addressing you, but as I contemplate publishing a book entitled "Three Years in the Freedmens Bureau", I deem it proper to ask whether you would have any objections or not. The work will contain nothing but facts, showing the onerous and delicate duties that an officer of that much belied and berated institution had to perform, and the many

substantial benefits resulting therefrom, not only to the late slaves, but to a very large proportion of the white population of the Southern States, also fully showing up, not only the difficulties, but the dangers, attending Officers in the faithful discharge of their manifold duties, who endeavored to carry out the law of Congress both in spirit and in letter, as well as your instructions.

I have the honor to be Your Obedient Servant.

Henry Sweeney.
Sergt. 15th Wis. Infantry.

77

Cleveland May 23. 1868

Gen O. O. Howard
Washington D.C.

Sir

The Cleveland Library Association very earnestly desires to secure a lecture from you sometime during the coming lecture season - Fall or Winter.

We trust that if you are coming West at all you will favor us with a lecture. We can give much latitude as to time so as to accomodate you.

Please state, as nearly as now possible, your terms, time &c in your reply.

I have the honor to be Very Truly
Your Obdt Servt
J. F. Herrick
Cor Secy C. L. A
Drawer 393
Cleveland Ohio

May 23rd 1868

Herrick J. F.
Cor. Sec. Cleveland Library Ass.

The Cleveland Library Assn desires to secure a lecture from the General some-time during the coming lecture season fall or winter.

Requests an early answer, stating terms etc, etc,

can not make any engagements yet now

48

OFFICE OF THE

Soldiers' and Sailors' Publishing Company,

150 Fulton Street, New York, May 23 1868

Maj Genl O O Howard
Washington
D.C.

General

We have the honor to forward you herewith copies of our little Magazine

You will see its object

It is meeting with very encouraging success, and is the means of assisting very many worthy disabled soldiers, and the families of those who died for their country

Knowing the great interest you have in your old soldiers, who like yourself bear living testimony to their devotion to country, and feeling satisfied you would gladly do anything to aid them, we would most respectfully request, if you approve of our work — its object &c you give us your endorsement

Yours

of our enterprise.

Trusting that you will comply with our request

We have the honor to be General

Very Respectfully
Your obt Svts

Hugo & Co
Managers

Late U. S. Jobs

Mansion House
Brooklyn May 23 '68

My Dear General.

Since the news of the Chicago nominations the good people of Brooklyn have a strong desire to see and greet Mr Colfax. I think the desire should be gratified and am sure Mr Colfax would be satisfied with his reception.

I would suggest to that in no way can it be done with more delicacy and propriety than by his delivering a temperance

address before the
Plymouth Temperance
Society either in
Plymouth Church or
the Academy of Music
In either place the
house will be full.
In this way we
gave a greeting to Rev
S. H. Tyng Jr and Plymouth
Church was packed to
its utmost
Mr Beecher joins
heartily in this suggestion
and request and should
Mr Colfax consent the
friends will have the satisfaction
of meeting him. Our
good cause of Temperance
will be strengthened
and good will be done
in the great cause

the Republic,

Of course we leave the time to his convenience and it hardly necessary for me to add that the money matter will be satisfactory

It just occurs to me that with such a grand affair as this can by judicious management be made we can get a benefit out of it for your Church in which case of course you must come with him

Now my good friend when you talk this matter over with Mr Colfax and drop me a line stating the result?

With kind regards

To Mrs Howard and
your children

I am
your friend
Chas L Drew
Pres. Plymouth
Temperance Soc.

Maj Gen O. O. Howard
Washington
DC

80

Washington D.C. May 25-68.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard.

Gen.

I have the honor to offer to you my farm for sale. said farm is lying across the Eastern branch, main entrance at the foot of Gordhospehill, it contains 63½ acres, one half of which is gardenland surpassed by none the balance contains a large number of valuable building sides, from which a view can be had over the whole city of Washington & surroundings.

Should you desire a beautiful place, either on speculation or otherwise, I know this place is suitable for either.

My desire to go south is the only reason for selling, as I have made considerable improvements such as vineyard, peachorchard & a variety of buildings.

I will sell low for cash, or otherwise an arrangement could be made to let a mortgage of $1000 remain 18 months, the time for its termination.

The neighborhood is good, if they are opposed to you buying any property in this neighborhood.

I am home at any time & would be pleased to show you the place

Very Resp.
your obd't servt

Chas K Krause

"K". 6. O.C.26. Vol. 1. 1868

Washington D.C.
May 23rd 1868

Krause, Chas. A.

Offers, for sale, his farm lying across Eastern Branch, containing 6 3/4 acres.
etc. etc.

393

81

Bureau R. F. & A. Lands
Head Quarters 9th Sub District, Va
Winchester, May 25th 1868.

Major General O. O. Howard
Commissioner, Bureau R. F. &c
Washington, D. C.

General

The report of Capt. Burbaker dated the 8th inst, and furnished to me direct from your office on the 21st instant having been the first information I received of the charge of Miss Dearing and believing that it was not the intention of the Major General Commissioner to deprive me of the privilege accorded to the greatest criminal, that of being heard in his own defence. I respectfully submit the following statement of the facts, supported by affidavits, which would have been submitted to Capt. Burbaker, had not his investigation been conducted, ex parte, at Harper's Ferry. The principal statement, that I placed a skeleton in a coffin to frighten the teachers and freedmen, is not true in fact, and stated fairly

will, I think, be considered, if not commendable, at least harmless and all the circumstances considered a friendly jest. The coffin was one of a number belonging to the Bureau for the burial of deceased indigent freedpeople, which Miss Deering knew were stored in the building. The skull (there was no skeleton) was placed in the coffin by Dr. Turner, lately a Surgeon of the Bureau here. The teachers, my wife and myself board together, and our relations are cordial and intimate. At the house numerous practical jokes, on both sides, have been played, and received in the most friendly spirit, and this was thoughtlessly done on the spur of the moment, with no intention or idea of seriously alarming Miss Deering. As to "terrifying the freedmen" not one to this hour, to my knowledge is aware of it. It was at the afternoon session of the school, and before Miss Deering left, that she might not suffer the least uneasiness, she was told all about it by Mr Terry, my clerk.

Had it been my desire (as it was farthest from my thoughts) to terrify those with whom I lived in such friendly relations, whatever she might have suspected, she would never have known it was a

joke - Since these ladies have been here, I appeal to them, without fear of contradiction, if I have not used every exertion in my power to aid them in successfully performing their duties - My sympathies are entirely with the colored people in their efforts to obtain the rudiments of knowledge, and as an officer of the Bureau, and as a man, I have been cordially with them, in this work - I say this to contradict the idea, which must naturally be entertained from Capt. Burbakers report, that I am not friendly to the freedmen and the cause of education - While I admit that under different circumstances, the act with which I have been charged, would be culpable, I respectfully submit that supposing from our intimate social relations, that I was merely joking with a friend, that it would be taken in the same spirit, and could not possibly have any serious result to any one, it was at most, an act of harmless impudence - I am also charged with having "given orders to discontinue the use of the schoolroom for religious purposes" - Perhaps I should content myself with the affidavit of the Rev. Mr Dougherty, to whose

denomination Mick Deering belongs as a full refutation of that charge, but desiring that the Major General Commissioner may comprehend all the facts, I beg to state that a bitter sectarian spirit is manifest in all the colored churches in this town. The advent of the present teachers who are looked upon as the representatives of the Free Baptist denomination, and who it was alleged, were trying to organize a new church, pointed them out as the most dangerous to all the others. Complaints were received at my office that the teachers were trying to alienate children from the church of their fathers. Prayer meetings were held in the Schoolroom twice a week. The Minister of the Methodist church called to remonstrate against the teachers and ministers of the new church for having induced many of his Sunday School Scholars to join their own: but yet I did not interfere, believing that prudence and the best interests of all the freedpeople would be served most by not as an officer, taking sides in a sectarian quarrel -

On the last of January 150 Scholars were reported by the teachers as attending School

In March 113 attended, showing a loss of 37. at a time when the attendance should be largest.
It being evident the school could not survive long at that rate, I took occasion to explain to the teacher, while on a daily visit to my wife's room that if she continued her prayer meetings in the school room in view of the then existing prejudices of a very large majority of the people, she would soon have no scholars, and in order to disarm the opposition, I stated that it would be preferable on prayer meeting days to hold such meetings, in the room used for such purposes, and that children only who desired, should be invited to attend.
After a full exchange of sentiments on the subject, she said on leaving that she "was glad we had a talk as she had not seen it in that light before". In the conversation, I spoke with candor and sincerity believing that apart from the daily prayer, no other exciting causes should be introduced into a public school, especially on a subject which had already caused bitter animosities, was fast dividing the people, and reducing the attendance at school. The school furniture has

is the property of the colored people, many of whom are opposed to the teachers prayer-meetings. This conversation constitutes the only "order" or suggestion to discontinue the use of the Schoolrooms for religious purposes. Another I also submit to the Major General Commanding that as one of the Schoolrooms was at the exclusive service of the Free Baptist Association of which Miss Dening is a member, and in which room she taught a S. S. class. that by furnishing another room, not more than ten feet distant, to teachers of the same denomination, when either room was sufficiently large to hold the largest attendance, it would seem to be a just cause of complaint, by the other denominations, against me, for using my official position in the interest of that denomination only.

In conclusion I respectfully submit the inclosed affidavit and endorsement of Miss Dening in support of the following propositions, viz. 1st By the endorsement of Miss Dening on paper marked "A" and affidavit of Mrs Terry herewith, Capt. Bunbaker did not proceed to Winchester as

directed by letter dated War Dept. Bureau of R. F. & A. L. May 8th. 1868, notwithstanding he reported he had performed that duty, but did at Harper's Ferry by ex parte statements, without notice to myself, make up his report on the day the order was issued directing the investigation -

2d. From the affidavit of Dr. Turner marked "B." and that of Rev. Mr Drurge, marked "C" with Mr Jerrys marked "D" the Major General Commissioner will perceive that the affair was not invented by Capt. McDonnell as stated by Capt. Burbaker to justify the teachers or freedmen -

3d. The affidavit of Rev. Mr Drurge marked "C" differs materially from Capt. Burbakers report that Capt. McDonnell had given orders to discontinue the use of the Schoolroom for religious exercises - Certainly the utmost tension of a zealots imagination, could alone construe the conversation with the teacher contained in this communication as such an order -

Of the allegations contained in Mr Drurgs letter, I cannot speak, having no knowledge of them except that they are referred to in Capt. Burbakers

I have the honor to be, General
Very Respectfully
Your Obd't Servant
John A. McDonald.
Sub-asst. Comr.

Chester Virginia
May 25th 1868

Lt. Donnell Jno. A.
Sub Asst Commr

Submits a statement of facts in regard to the affair at Winchester. Encloses affidavits verifying his statements etc, etc, etc, etc,

(4 enclosures)

83

Winchester, Va
May 22d 1868

Mrs Deming

Will you please state in writing on the back of this letter, if Captain Prentiss Pruyn Officer at Harpers Ferry, has been in Winchester, to your knowledge, since Thursday the 7th May instant.

Very Respectfully
John A. McDowell,
Sub-asst. Comr.

84

County of Frederick S.f

I, J. W. Dunger presiding Minister of the F. Baptist Church in Winchester, do hereby Certify, that Capt John A. McDowell Officer of the Bureau R. F. & A.L. has allowed me at all times, to occupy one of the School rooms in which to hold religious Services as I desired. The room to which I refer is in the same building occupied by himself, another room in which, is used for a Colored School. My predecessor was also afforded the same facilities and I believe everything Consistant with an impartial administration of his duties, was, and still continues to be done by that Officer to advance the Cause of education and religion. I do not know myself, and never heard any of the Freedpeople say that he tried by any means to frighten them, As their Minister I should have heard it from them if he had done so,

J. W. Dunger

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 23 May 1868.

C. W. Gibbons Clerk
County Court Fred.k Co.ty

85

County of Frederick S.S.

I Thos. Turner do hereby Certify that as Asst Surgeon U.S.A. I was on duty in the Bu R.F.&A.L. at Winchester, and Occupied an Office on the Same floor with Capt McDowell. A number of Coffins for the use of deceased freedmen were stored in the Same building and directly over my Office. A short time Since a Scull which was used by me for illustrations, was placed for Safe keeping in one of the Coffins by myself, and with Some articles of Clothing belonging to me, were placed behind a door in the Office until Opportunity presented itself to take them away. The Spectacle was not by any Means frightful, as Coffins are exposed to full view on the floor above, and this one was removed for the purpose stated by me to retain the articles placed therein until taken away.

T. Turner M.D.

Sworn and Subscribed to before me this 23 May 1868.

Geo F Miller Jr

89

86

County of Frederick
State of Virginia ss:

Addison F. Perry being duly sworn, says that he has read the statement of Capt. McDonnell herewith, in relation to the exhibition of a skeleton, reported on by Capt. Burbaker, and with the exception of what took place at Capt. McDonnell's boarding house, is familiar with the whole affair, and considers Capt. McDonnell's statement fair and candid. That so far as this affiant knows the facts it is true in every particular. That he has been a clerk of the Bureau at this place nearly three years, under the administration of three different officers, and he believes that none have exceeded Capt. McDonnell in their efforts to promote the general, social and religious welfare of the freedmen.

He further says that Miss Deering, Capt. McDonnell and himself, are the only ~~one~~ persons having any personal knowledge of the affair, and that Capt. Burbaker has not applied to him either personally or by letter for any information on the subject.

Sworn before me this 25 May 1868 — Addison F. Perry

E. M. Gibbons Clerk Fred'k Co. Va.

87

All letters for this office should be addressed to A. C. HALL, *Collector*, City Hall, Washington, D. C., and if answer is required, a return stamp must be enclosed.

☞ Taxes receivable only in Current Funds.

Taxpayers in referring to their property should describe it by number of Square and Lot.

Collector's Office,

CITY HALL,

Washington, D. C., May 25th 1868

I received a communication informing me that the lots advertised for sale for non payment of Taxes were the property of the 1st Congregational Church. By reference to the books of this Office I find that Sub 12, 13, 14 & 15 are in the name of O O Howard as Trustee for said Church which by law are exempt from taxation, but sub 16, 17, & 18 are in the name of simply of Oliver O. Howard

Very Respectfully
John C. Clary
for A. C. Hall Collector