

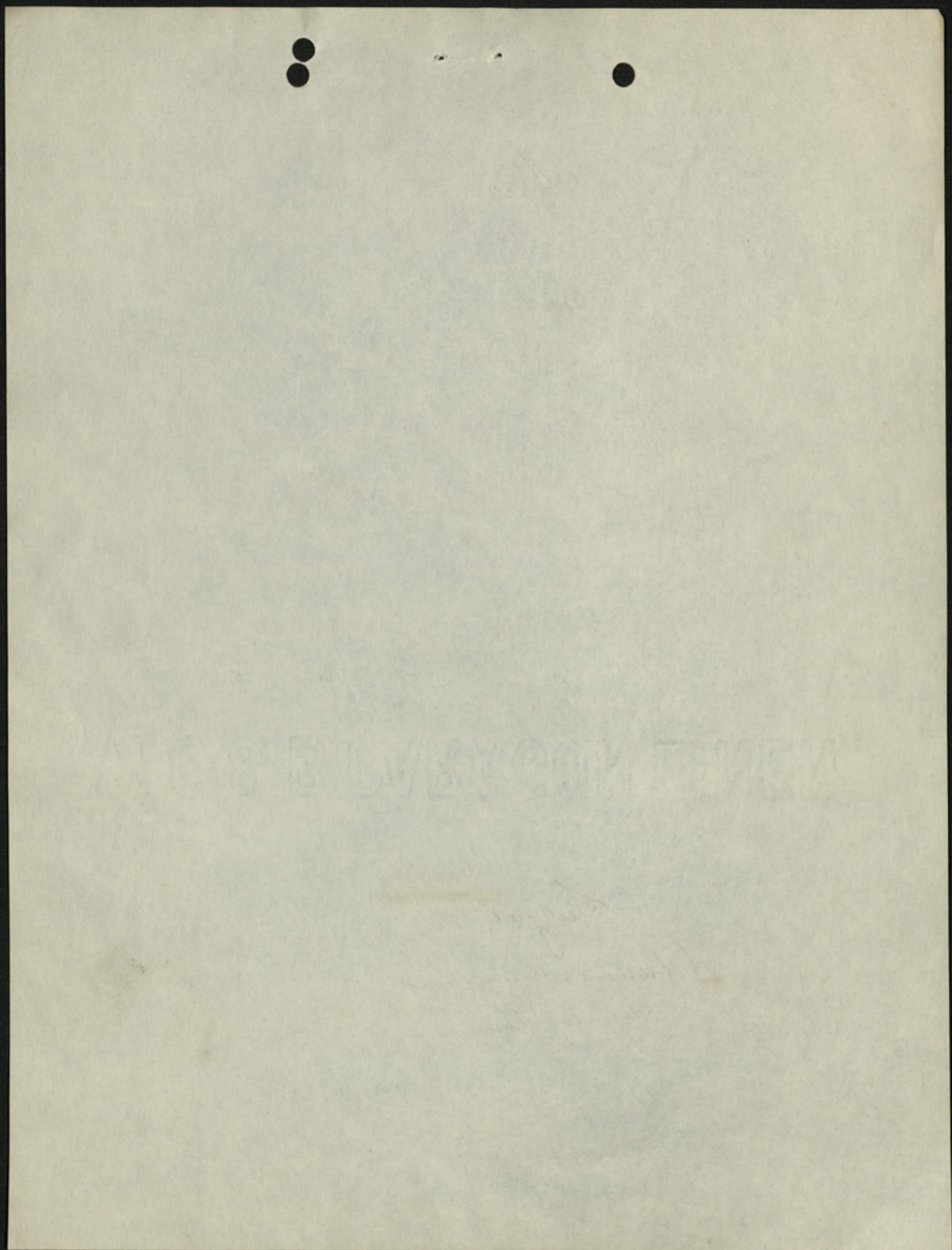
Article

Sept-22 1894

No 44

Subject-
of forwards concerning
Senator Pomeroy

44



Governor's Island, N. Y.,

September 22, 1891.

Dear Friend:-

Thank you for the opportunity you give to say a few words concerning Senator *S.* C. Pomeroy.

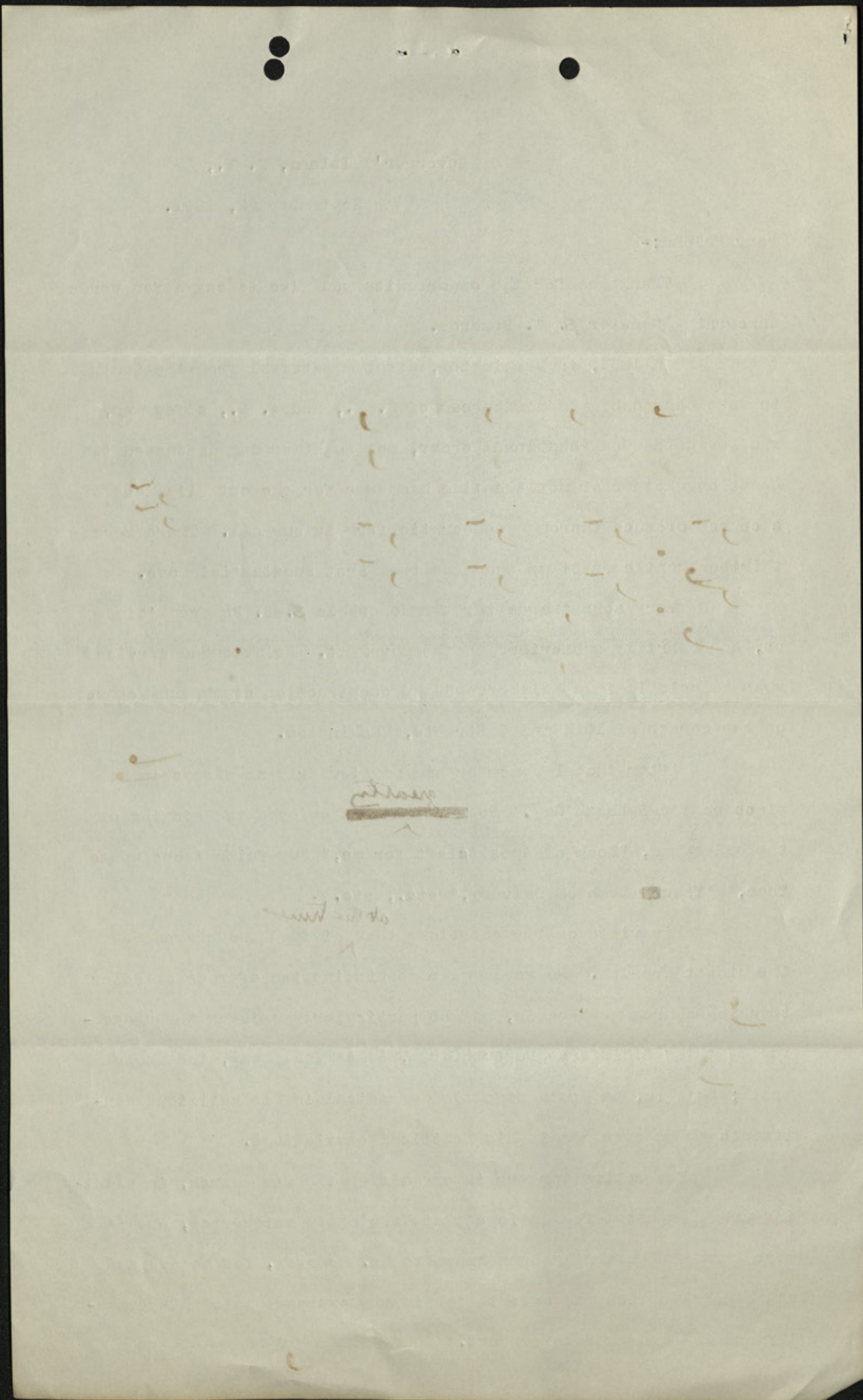
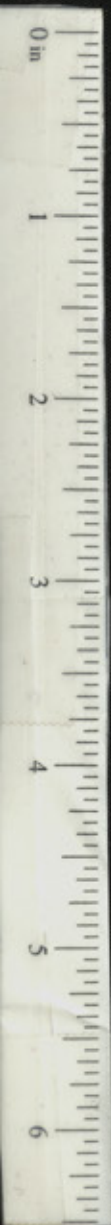
In 1865, in Washington, after my arrival from the South to take charge of the new bureau of R. F., and A. L., a few men, who loved the Congregational order, met together and discussed the question whether or not the time had come for the establishment of a church of such thorough democratic form as our own. There were thirteen gentlemen of us who made the first substantial move.

Very soon thereafter the Honorable *S.* C. Pomeroy joined us, and heartily subscribed to the movement. He attended service when we held it in a hall before the construction of the new church on the corner of 10th and G Streets, Washington.

After that I remember him particularly as always in his place on the Sabbath day. He ~~greatly~~ enjoyed the singing of the old hymns, "Rock of Ages, cleft for me," "My faith looks up to Thee," "Thou Lamb of Calvery," etc., etc.

His views on the questions that ^{at the time} divided the church had the utmost breadth. He would make no distinction of race or color touching church membership, and he particularly enjoyed the preaching of those ministers who put forth, in a kindly way, the whole truth; that is, he would be called a radical in his religious sentiments as he ever was in his political convictions.

The active workers in organizing the new church, in planting upon permanent foundations that Washington enterprise, owe it more than has generally been known to Mr. Pomeroy, for he avoided all special notice and ostentation in the expressions of his sympathy and in his generous support.



At the first meeting, I think in the Winter of '65 and '66, of the incorporators of "Howard University" was Senator Pomeroy. There I remember particularly that interest that he and other Members of Congress took in the new project. He sided with those of us who advocated a large Institution rather than what has since become a single department; that is, a University in fact, with preparatory, college, normal, industrial, and professional departments.

The University began without money. To organize, To develop, To endow, To locate, To build, To furnish professors and teachers, In brief, to work the whole affair into shape on grounds as broad as humanity, required thought, planning, courage, faith in man and faith in God. It was a hard and long labor; and Mr. Pomeroy, in the Board of Trustees and in the Committees, spent all the leisure time he could command from month to month and from year to year, with fidelity and great wisdom, and all without a dollars compensation.

In this work, too, he was foremost among leaders who took radical grounds. No distinctions to be allowed in the Board of Trustees. It was composed of whites and blacks. No distinction in the Board of Instructors in either faculty on account of race or color, and no hinderances were to be offered to any in the scholarships or the advantages of the Institution on account of race or color or sex. It was indeed in its establishment an Institution of remarkable catholicity. Senator Pomeroy's stanch support so cheerfully and yet so firmly given as to overcome opposition, was always timely.

Once more, when Washington City was full to the overflowing of those recently freed, and of destitute refugees rendered so by the closing operations of the great conflict, When valuable



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lands were covered by, what appeared then, the poorest of beggars, a Trust was formed to secure homesteads to these poor, as far as was practicable. Mr. Pomeroy was chosen as one of the Trustees in this work in conjunction with several others. I myself was in the Board and know of what I speak. He aided materially in giving practical and business shape to the whole affair. This with other projects relieved the situation marvelously.

The very lowest of the poor began to work and to have some hope of the future. The valuable lands were gradually cleared of the troublesome occupants; while their ^{new} homes, which they paid for by their wages in simple instalments, welcomed and took in the worthy. In this Trusteeship all Mr. Pomeroy's services, many many hours of thought, and planning, and execution, were given absolutely without compensation.

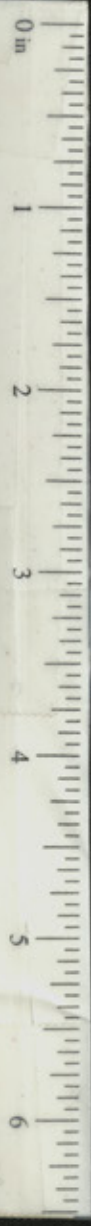
I have no time to elaborate further the point I wish to make. It is this. That in my observation of Senator Pomeroy, from my standpoint; that is, from the points in which I came in contact with him, he was generous, kind, self-sacrificing and faithful, especially to the poor, to the church of his choice, to the work of education, and to the Great Master.

Certainly the Congregational churches, East, West, North and South, and all the Missionary and benevolent organizations connected with them, never had a more devoted friend.

Very truly yours,

Olin O. Howard

Major General, U. S. Army.



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