

Headquarters 11th Corps
Lookout Valley, Jany. 1864

Capt. Add^l. A.D.C.

My Dear Sir:

Permit me to write you a few lines,
now that you have left us, as a meager testimonial of my
appreciation of your public service and private friendship.
No one has ever performed his duty with more constancy and
completeness, with more alacrity and cheerfulness, under
every variety and trial of circumstance, than yourself, since
you have been connected with this Corps. I truly sympathize
with you in the disability, attended with so much weakness
and suffering, which calls you from our circle, and hope
the tender [nurture ?] of home may hasten your full restora-
tion to health. Ever call upon me as your unreserved
friend. God bless you and yours.

Sincerely,

(sig'd) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Hd. Qrs. 11th A.C.

Feb. 25th, 1864

Maj. Gen. W. S. Hancock

U.S. Vol's.

My dear Gen'l.

Some friend has sent me an article from the "Evening Bulletin", signed "Military", which speaks warmly in your interest, and against me.

I would not, on any account enter into a newspaper controversy, and care little about the article, except so far as it accuses me, for some political reasons, of accepting what belongs to you: i.e. of being a willing party to your detriment. I trust this is not your sentiment.

I do believe that you are deserving of the thanks of Congress for what you did on the battlefield of Gettysburg. No man was more welcome than you, when you joined me on that famous cemetery height.

No man could have worked harder, or have effected more. The language of the closing of the article, is this - "Nor can it justify another in accepting honors in a way, which has been denominated by the greatest soldier in the land," [pruriency ?] of fame not earned". Now this is foolish. I never had the remotest idea that this was to be done, that I was to receive a vote of thanks. I do not now know who acted in the matter. One of my friends told me of the high terms, in which you spoke of me, in connection with that battle. Like yourself, I did, or tried to do my duty, and my report is a simple narration of facts.

As you are a brother officer that I respect, and whose good opinion I value, I am unwilling to have a ~~misunder-stand~~ing

standing forced between us. This is a private letter, but if it shall be your wish, I will never be unwilling to make public, any statement of facts, that I can, consistently with orders. I hope you are completely recovered from your trying wounds.

Believe me sincerely yours,

(sig'd) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps
Lookout Valley, March. 22, 1864

Major Riddle
A.D.C. to Gen. Meade

Dear Major.

It has been told me that a member of Gen. Reynolds' staff says that he brought me an order to place a Division on Cemetery ridge at the battle of Gettysburg. I think there must be some mistake. I did not so receive the impression from any written or verbal communication on that memorable day. I loved and esteemed Gen. Reynolds, and cherish his memory. I not only assert that he was guilty of no military fault the first day of July, but did what doubtless every able commander of the advance of a large army would have done, i.e. he met the enemy boldly and drove him back. What his subsequent disposition would have been, I do not know. I think it was yourself that met me on the road between Emmitsburg and Gettysburg, and said the Gen. wished me to move up to the latter place, instead of halting four or five miles back, as had been the previous intention. Moreover you were to point me out my camp, and I think you did so, as near as I can remember, near where Gen. Sickles' corps was engaged, giving me the option as to the side of the road. But when we arrived there, the engagement was so warmly in progress, that yourself and some members of my staff, at my insistance, went to find Gen. Reynolds.

I was anxious to see him in person, but it was then uncertain just where he was. Capt. Hall of my staff says he received from Gen. Reynolds in person an order for me, subsequent to yours, "to move my whole command to the scene of action." Now what I wish to say is, that I never thought your order to me contemplated or directed my subsequent disposition. I disclaim my intention to do aught to diminish the deserved reputation of my noble and brave brother officer; and

therefore trust you will write to me frankly your own impression with regard to the orders yourself, and the rest of the Gen'l's staff brought me that day.

I wish to testify to you, and to Lt. Col. Kingsbury, to Capts. Weld and Wadsworth, my personal admiration for each, for gallantry, and with a confession of neglect on my part not to have mentioned you and them in my official report.

Very Truly Yours,
(Brig'd) O.O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Headquarters 11th Corps,

Lookout Valley, March 23^d, 1864

Prof. M. Jacobs

Dear Sir:

I have just received your kind letter of March 15th, and hasten to reply. Your letter is all that I could ask. I had become a little sensitive, too much so, over two articles, one appearing in the "Evening Bulletin," and the other in the "Army and Navy Journal," and when I chanced to fall upon your "Later Rambles," I feared some secret misrepresentation was prejudicing the minds of those especially interested in the army, and placing me before them in a light entirely false. I deprecate all controversy between officers of rank, and influence who are, or ought to be, working together for the preservation of our common country, and am very anxious to avoid any public discussion. I believe your present letter to be an exact statement of facts, and if you think best, I do not object to its publication in the way you propose.

My acquaintance with Maj. Gen'l. Reynolds antedated the present war. I knew him at West Point, while he was Commandant [sic] of Cadets. He was then an officer highly esteemed, and I found him always a genial and conscientious gentleman, and counted him as a personal friend.

We were together at Centreville, Va, at Middleton, Md, at Frederick and Emmitsburg during the march northward

I met him also at other points of consultation, on the evening before his death, at his request. I rode from Emmitsburg to his Hd. Qrs., near March Run. I was just in time for supper, and sat down with himself and staff, in the front room of the house, marked "N. [Mountez ?]" on the map. We had a cheerful conversation on ordinary topics during the meal, and then retired to a back room, where the General read me some communications he had received from Gen. Meade, requesting us to animate our troops in view of the struggle soon to transpire, and others, asking his opinion on matters connected with the army. Gen'l. Reynolds treated me with the most marked confidence, and we conversed together till a late hour, being in momentarily [sic] expectation of orders from Gen. Meade for the next day. Gen. Reynolds had at this time been put in command of the three Corps, 1st, 3^d and 11th. The orders did not arrive by 11 P.M. and I returned to Emmitsburg. It was near daylight when the orders did arrive at Emmitsburg. I saw a copy of them, but being under Gen. Reynolds, I awaited his order of execution. This arrived about 8 A.M. We were in readiness, and started instantly. You notice my Corps took two routes nearly parallel. I often do this when practicable. In this way, when my 1st division arrives at a certain spot, my 2^d may be there also.

When the head of the column of Gen. Barlow appeared at Gettysburg, on the direct road, Gen. Schurz's head of column appeared from the Taneytown road.

Had Gen. Reynolds not been laid low by that,

[Continuation of the text of page two of the original]

said to have been from a "Sharpshooter," he would most
probaby [sic] have reserved a portion of my Corps, and I have
thought, perhaps placed me on the Cemetery
ridge, and brought his own thither, as soon as he

found the enemy in so large force. It is a critical time to receive a command, in the midst of a battle, when a trusted and beloved leader has just fallen. I did it at Antietam when a Division fell to me after Gen. Sedgwick was wounded. I did it in sorrow at Gettysburg, when the death of my brother officer and friend was reported ^{to} me. Some scribblers have said that Reynolds was guilty of rashness. I believe the contrary. With Buford's Cavalry, our two Corps constituted the advanced guard of the Army. Had Gen. Reynolds exhibited a less bold front, our force might have been crushed, or cut off from the main body. The very energy of Reynold's [sic] attack, deceived the rebel General, and made him cautious in his approaches [sic], waiting till he got up a large force, before he attacked us, and even then not following up his advantage because of his uncertainty of our strength, and because we had assumed a strong position. The enemy had pushed us very hard as you know, and at the time Gen's Schurz and Doubleday were bringing the troops to the Cemetery heighth, Gen Hancock came up. I gave the order generally to arrange the 11th Corps on the ridge, or North of the Baltimore Pike, and the 1st Corps south of the same. Gen. Hancock moved personally from point to point, encouraging the men, locating regiments, and batteries. It was his suggestion to order that moved Wadsworth to Culp's Hill and while I claim to have been also active, and fearless in the discharges of duty, and to have properly anticipated the [crises ?] that occurred, I award to him a coincidence of thought and plan, courtesy of deportment, and gallantry of action that none can surpass.

Respectfully and Truly Yours,

(Sig'd) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

Headquarters, 11th Corps.

Cleveland, Tenn, April 14th, 1864

Lt. Col. T. A. Meysenberg A. A. G.

Colonel,

Now that we have sepaprated, I vividly recall the valuable service you have rendered me, during the past year. There is no necessity of my commending you more than I have already done. I have heard that you were ambitious to undertake the duties of some other department. I commend you to Genl. Sigel, knowing that you will do honor to yourself, wherever he may find opportunities for you to act.

Wishing you every divine blessing, I remain

Yours Truly

(Sig'd) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Hd. Qrs., 4th Army Corps

Cleveland, Tenn. April 16, 1864

Maj. Genl. W. T. Sherman

Nashville, Tenn.

General.

Allow me to introduce to you Rev. E. P. Smith, the principal Agent of the U. S. Christian Commission for the West.

In conjunction with the President of the Association, Geo. H. Stuart of Phila., he has worked hard to put in the hands of soldiers, through sub-agents, books, papers and sanitary stores, and sundry contributions from friends at home. He has had a valuable agent in the vicinity of the Eleventh Corps during the winter. From his supply all the Chaplains, Regiments and Hospitals have drawn, and I have recognized him as a coworker with the Sanitary Commission particularly beneficial to the troops. A large body of the christian people of the country are helping to preserve a strong moral influence over their friends in the army through this instrumentality.

Mr. E. P. Smith desires to lay before you the object of his Commission and Agents, and entice your interest and aid. I believe him to be a good and faithful man.

Very respectfully,

(Sig'd) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Hd. Qrs. 4th Army Corps

Cleveland, Tenn., April 16, 1864

Rev. E. P. Smith

Genl. Field Agt. U.S. Christian Commission

Dear Sir.

Please find enclosed a letter of introduction to Genl. Sherman. Go right to him, and in a brief and manly way, tell him the object and operation of the Commission, how it aids the Chaplin to get books, and [hoper ?] for encouragement and profit to the soldiers, and just as soon as transportation will admit of it, I doubt not he will give you every facility.

Very Truly Yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard, Maj. Genl.

Hd.qrs. Dept. & Army of the Tennessee

Before Atlanta, Aug. 24th, 1864.

Hon. J. G. Blaine, M.C.

My dear Blaine.

I have received your kind letter of the 13th inst., and hasten to reply. I would like to have Lt. Stanwood on my staff very much, but as you ask for him to have the rank of Captain or Major, it is beyond my power to give it to him, but if he would like to be transferred to my staff, to act as aide-de-camp, with his present rank, I will apply for him. But let me tell you Blaine, that promotion on the staff is slower than anywhere else, and particularly so under Genl. Sherman, who declares that officers commanding troops in action must be promoted first. As to the Brigadeership [sic] in the Regular Army, I should regard it as a high compliment and of material value, but I am inclined to ask for no promotion or appointment, having already received more than I could ask, and beyond my deserts. In times like these, it is dangerous to rise too high, a single misfortune may topple you over into popular disfavor. I shall exert myself in my present position with credit to myself and friends, and trust under God's blessing to be of substantial service to my country. I am feeling particularly anxious about the state of feeling in the country at large. It does seem to me, that if the draft could be enforced without partiality, favor, or affection, our ranks speedily filled up, the regiments going out of service replaced, we could finish this work in a very short time. It may seem singular that we are

always asking for more men, but the truth of the matter is, that a war the character of the one we are waging, requires one third more on the part of the invading force. Our lines of communication, nearly 500 miles in extent, for the most part of the way, one single R.R. track, and through a country for the most part hostile to the government, are easily broken by small parties of men, and must therefore be well guarded, and for this guard to be any way efficient, it must be strong enough at the principal depots and bridges, to resist any cavalry forces the enemy may send against them. A single calculation will show that it requires full as large an army to ensure the safety of our lines of communication, as to fight the enemy in front. The country in the vicinity of Atlanta is rough; no very high hills, but the surface is irregularly broken into knolls, separated by deep ravines, which run in every direction possible. I have been from the Augusta R.R. to within a mile and a half of East Point and I find the greater portion of the country covered with forest, even up to the suburbs of the city. Scarcely any farms, or buildings of any value, so different from what you would expect near a city of the size of Atlanta. The works about Atlanta are on higher ground than any we occupy, well located, and thoroughly constructed. Hurd has been able to fill these strong works with Militia, which can shoot very well from behind breastworks that our men could scarcely climb up to if there were no enemy there. He uses his old troops for reserves, moveable force and picket duty. We have effectually cut the Augusta line, the west point line, and [twice ?] badly broken the Macon line of communication. We have repelled three heavy assaults of the enemy, and sundry lesser ones, till he has quit making them.

Thus far the campaign has been persistently carried forward.

While there is no lack of courage or confidence in the final result, still the fact stares us in the face, that the depletion of force resulting from expiration of terms of service is constant, and that soon Hoods' force will exceed ours in numbers, because the Rebel government is doing enough to make a soldier of every man. How utterly absurd it is to stand tremblingly anxious lest we loose a tithe of liberty, when all our liberties are on the brink of ruin. For mercy's sake, Blaine, for our country's sake rather, put forth all your energies to sustain and strengthen the government, and make it confident and fearless in the exercise of positive power, a power adequate to this trying ordeal, for this is the time to put it forth.

← Every family will bleed, every individual suffer, but if we do our duty faithfully in this crisis, under the Divine blessing, the end will be glorious. I fear and tremble as I read the newspapers. I fear we have not virtue enough in this country to stand the trial. I have no objection to peace, peace is what we want, but let the word ring along the lines of brave men who are giving their lives, for victory and peace. We will take Atlanta, Mobile, Montgomery, and Augusta, Ga. and cry peace at every blow. Wont[sic] there be a joyful, hearty gladsome cheer amongst our soldiers, when the work is done, and the Republic is crowned with victory and peace. God speed the day! Give my kindest regard to Mrs. Blaine and the child children. I will send my messages dircet to Mrs. H.

Very truly yours,

(sgd) O.O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Hd. Qrs. Dept. & Army of Tenn.
Beaufort, S. C. Jan. 16th, 1865

Hon. W. P. Fessenden

Sir.

Having by the accident of moving my troops across this Island become somewhat acquainted with public matters in this vicinity, I deem it my duty to give you a few simple statements. There seems to be some conflict of authority between the Agents of the War Dept. and your own, with regard with regard [sic] to the Freedman within the limits of the conquered territory. It is reported to me by one in whom you and I place confidence, that the system of dealing with the coloured freedmen, as advocated by Genl. Saxton, and that advocated by Mr. Brown, your Treasury Agent, are identical, except with regard to moral

[next page:]

and religious things. I am inclined to believe that Mr. Brown is not a good man, and that he feels vindictive towards Genl. Saxton, and is willing to depredate the value of the eminent christian service that Genl. Saxton has rendered in this Military Dept. Wherever the latter has been untrammelled in his work, he has introduced [sic] system and order, and industry among these poor people, in such a manner, as to afford a practible [sic] example of the best method of dealing with the negroes, as fast as they are freed.

In a conversation with your other agent, Mr. Torsey, I became satisfied that his convictions were coincident with mine, and I believe that were Mr. Brown removed, or transferred elsewhere, and Mr. Torsey appointed in his place, the utmost harmony would prevail, and the interests of the government be [subremed ?]. I write this voluntarily without consultation with others, and with no other motive, than an earnest wish to see a work, as well begun here under the supervision of a completely practical mind, have a chance to develop and thrive, till the curse of slavery shall have been buried deep beneath the blessings of freedom.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

(signed) O. O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Hd. Qrs. Dept. & Army of Tenn.
Goldsboro, N.C. March 30th, 1865

Col. S.M. Bowman
Colonel

Your letter of Feb. 5th is just received.

I am sorry not to have received it early enough to
reply to you in season, but I suppose it is too late now.

If however you wanted to go to the War Dept. and get my
reports both of the operations of the 4th Corps and the Army
of the Tennessee, you would be able to get a more complete
record of incidents than I can now give you. The reports are
very full, and have good diagrams and maps accompanying
them. I have no staff officer with me at liberty to undertake the
matter. Most of my staff with me at that time, are now
absent. My report of the Savannah Campaign was also quite
full and minute. I appreciate your high motives, and
regret that I am able to do little in furtherance of your plan.

With sincere regards, I am Colonel,

Very Respectfully Yours,

(sig.) O.O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Hd Qrs. Dept. & Army of Tenn.
Goldsboro, N.C. March 30th, 1865

Maj. Genl. Terry
Comdg. Provisional Corps.
General:

Has Capt. Ed. F. (Wipman) of the 9th Maine
Regt. been exchanged, or made his escape from the rebels.

When captured, he was acting a Com. of Subs. Dept. of the
South, and was captured on the train with Genl. Franklin.

Very Respectfully Yours,
(Sig.) O.O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Hd. Qrs. Dept. & Army of Tenn.
Goldsboro, N.C. March 31st, 1865

Hon. Samuel Cony
Gov. of Maine

My dear Sir:

I have learned unofficially that the honorable Senate and House of Representatives have tendered me a vote of thanks for my public service in the field. This is indeed a great distinction to be thus generously dealt with; to be singled out from the multitude you have sent to the war. I appreciate the hearty enthusiasm of our patriotic people, who invest every soldier they deem true, with a halo of glory, and often attribute to him honor and glory beyond his due. I feel that our operations under the leadership of Genl. Sherman have been remarkably successful.

Less than a year ago, we were hovering about Chattanooga with a large hostile force obstructing the avenues to Georgia, Atlanta, Savannah, Charleston, and Wilmington, which were held with elaborate works and strong garrisons. To day our army is grouped about Goldsboro, N.C. The history of its triumphant march is already chronicled over the land, and the public heart beats high with expectation, in view of the rapid proportion, for what everyone deems the final encounter.

Grant and Sherman have already joined hands, and with silent pressure, pledged support; and sealed the plans of future work. Their very attitude with hand joined in hand, beneath the eye of our revered President, affords us a touching and graphic scene, and may we not regard it as beautifully prospective, just at the dawn of great events.

It gives me a satisfaction, to which I can hardly give expression; to be the recipient of such a compliment, and become thus enrolled among those who have served their country well.

For grateful acknowledgement, I have the honor to be

Yours with great respect,
(sign.) O.O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Hd. Qrs. Dept. & Army of Tenn.
Goldsboro, N.C. March 31st, 1865

Genl. John Newton
Key West, Fla.
General.

I have just received your letter of
Feb. 5th. I should take great pleasure in complying
with your request; but we have not gone to Raleigh,
and our course may not take us there. I have learned
with sincere regret of the death of young Carrington,
and I sympathize with you in your loss. At present we
are having a little rest, but shall be on the move
again soon.

Hoping you are well, I remain

Yours Truly,

(Sig.) O.O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, D.C.
June 8th, 1865

Geo. H. Stuart

Chairman of U.S.C.C.

Dear Sir:

I have just returned from Richmond,
and find upon my desk the invitation from yourself and
other gentlemen, to be present at a meeting of welcome, to be
given tomorrow evening

During my absence, a large amount of business has
accumulated, to which it is necessary that I should give my
immediate attention, so that it will be absolutely impossible
for me to accept your kind invitation.

Very truly yours,

(Sig) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

War Dept. B. R. F. and A. L.

Washington, July 8th, 1865

Col. T. A. Meysenberg

Dear Colonel,

The General desires me to say to you tha he is very busy, or he would answer your letter received some time since, himself.

He thanks you sincerely for your kind words, and trusts he may be able to retain that friendship which you have expressed towards him.

The books have arrived by express, and when he has the other books copied, which he hopes to have shortly, he will send them all over to Genl. Townsend.

He will always be glad to hear from you, and when the press of business lightens, will himself write to you.

By order of

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard

(signed) J. A. Sladen, Lt. & Prvt. Secy.

Washington July 15th, 1865.

James Redpath, Esq.

Dear Sir.

I have just read your letter of the 8th inst.

With regard to procuring a commission for you, that is out of the question, as the Secy. of War utterly refused to issue any new commissions, whilst so many good men are leaving the service preforce, who desire to remain in it.

I will however see what can be done in the way of pay. Anything Gen. Saxton can do for you, if he wishes to retain you, I will approve.

Very truly yours

(Sigd) O. O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington Sept 7, 1865

J. G. Brown Esq.

Dear Sir,

Gen. Howard desires me to say, in
answer to yours of the 4th of July, which has just been
laid before him, on account of his absence from Washington,
that your two previous letters have been received by
him, and that he took them in person to the Secy. of the
Treasury, and urged your claims, and that he wrote
you of the fact. Your letters are filed at the Treasury
Dept.

Very Respectfully Yours,

(Signed) O.O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, Sept. 13th, 1865.

James Redpath, Esq.

My dear Sir.

Your letter of 5th inst. has just been received. I have left the matter of procuring Supts. of schools, entirely with the Asst. Commrs., so that if Gen. Saxton has the means of paying you, alls [sic] well. I however have not the means. And in most cases the Supts. will have to be military men, for the present, at any rate.

Very Respectfully Yours,

(signed) O. O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, Sept. 15th, 1865

James Redpath, Esq.

Dear Sir.

Your telegram is just received.

Gen. Howard desires me to reply as follows. He has no official communication from Gen. Saxton as to your appointment, and wishes to hear from him first. Then he does not think it would be advisable to pay a large salary to a citizen appointed.

Very Truly Yours

Jo^s. A. Sladen,

Lieut. & Priv. Secy.

Washington, Sept. 15th, 1865.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. Saxton

Asst. Commissioner.

My dear General

Redpath has just telegraphed
for transportation to S. C. as Supt. of schools. I have
delayed him, till I hear from you. From the difficulties we are
now contending with, and from what I know of him, I think him
the very worst man to put in as Superintendent of schools.
Do you desire him? I have no means of paying him.

Very Truly Yours

(Sigd) O. O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, Oct. 9th, 1865

James E. Rhoades, Secy.

My dear Sir.

I have just received your kind letter, and hasten to reply. By judicious efforts, very much may be done in the way of education in the South. The want of money, the peculiar habits of a lifetime, and the prejudices necessarily existing under the southern communities, for the most part, unprepared to educate their poor, both white and black. Education underlies every hope of succes for the Freedman. This education must of course must extend rather to the practical arts, than to theoretical knowledge. Everything depends upon the youth and the children being thoroughly instructed in every industrial pursuit. Through education, embracing moral and religious training, the fearful prejudice and hostility against the blacks can be overcome. They themselves will be able to command and secure both privileges and rights, that we now have difficulty to guarantee. Therefore, I earnestly entreat benevolent associations to leave no stone unturned, to give them the opportunities for gaining knowledge.

I would enjoy being with you at your meeting at Philadelphia, but my orders carry me in the other direction. Do everything you possible can for the elevation of the freedmen. My impression is, that hundreds, and perhaps thousands of southern people would be ready to aid you, if approached in the right way. They acknowledge their necessities, and, as in Louisiana, a large number of teachers will work for wages. I am often

asked what I can do in the way of aid. My answer is not much. I must turn to the Societies now, and ask them what they can do to aid me. What are the people willing to do to secure the blessings almost within our grasp - the blessings of substantial freedom, and enduring peace. Whether in a political point of view, I believe every thinking man is ready to admit that we will stand or fall as a nation, according as we are true to principle, according to our fidelity to trusts evidently committed to us.

Very Truly Yours,

(Sig.) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, Oct. 9th, 1865

Maj. Geo. L. Stearns

Boston.

My dear General

Your letters of 4th inst. have both been received. I enclose a slip from the "Chronicle" of this date of the correspondence between Mr. Penfried ? and myself.

I think it would be well if you would correspond with Mr. Penfried and also Mr. Atkinson of Mass. who has written some peices in regard to the cultivation of cotton &c. I will take pleasure in distributing through my Asst. Commisioners any articles pro or con issued by you on the different important topics. I leave tomorow morning for a trip South.

Very truly yours,

(Sigd.) O. O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Steamer Canonicus, Oct. 27th, 1865

Off Fernandini, Fla.

Rev. C. F. McRae

Dear Sir.

You referred to my conversation in Richmond, Va. with Bishop Jones of the Episcopal Church, and expressed a desire for me to write you on the subject we considered.

In order to carry forward the work to which I have been assigned, my attention has been called every day, more or less, to the importance of Education in the Southern States. I am in hopes that several of the State Legislatures will take this matter up, and fix upon some good system of free schools, so that the children of the poor of every description and color, will have the benefit of them, but I fear that the labor question is so all engrossing, and the available funds so few, that this matter however urgent it may seem, will be postponed. I have noticed in the colored schools all over the country, where there were respectable teachers, that there was uniformly good attendance, and a wonderful interest manifested on the part of the children. While this interest is awakened, as if by divine interposition, should we not as christians, put our shoulders to the wheel, and do all we can by organized efforts, to open up the minds of these thousands, and fill them with useful knowledge.

Your Episcopal organization can do a great deal. At any rate you can modify and change any false public sentiment that may exist. There is now no question but that education is absolutely necessary to the freedmen, to enable them to compete at all with other classes of men who will vie with them in the

various fields of labor. And when we consider religious teaching, you will agree with me that we must spare no effort, in order to correct superstition, false notions, immorality and [irreligion ?], that are so fearfully prevalent among all classes of our own people.

If your clergy will take time by the forelock, and interest themselves heartily in educating the negro children, it will be a mark of sympathy and friendliness, that will open the way to the solution of many difficult problems. Many of the former masters say to northern christians, "we care more for our colored people than you possibly can." If you will step forward and take the lead in educating their children, helping in their churches and Sabbath schools, and afford them aid in every laudable enterprise, the world will be made good by deeds. I have wondered often why churches that are so eger [sic] in their work, have not more eagerly siezed upon the fields now open before them. You may [answer ?] the Episcopal church did what it could or doubt its ability to do more now. The past is past, but if you will notice the prevalance of untruthfulness, the want of observance of the marriage tie, and the ignorance of the very ground work of the Christian faith, you will agree with me that there is enough now to do, and enought for every laborer in the vineyard. What I [?] , my dear sir, is that you and your brethren will do what you can to promote education in your state, and to correct any false notions that may prevail as to its practicability, or necessity.

With christian regard,

I am Yours truly,

(Sig.) O.O.Howard, Maj. Genl.

War Dept. Bureau R. F. and A. L.
Washington, D.C. Nov. 25th, 1865

Hon. Henry Wilson

My dear Sir.

Your kind letter is received. I would be pleased to give you a full account of my trip in the Southern states, but the necessity of giving my time to my report, hinders me now. As soon as you come to Washington, I wish to have a long interview with you.

The general conclusions to which I came were these,
1st that the time had not come for the government to surrender its authority in any states I visited.

2^d that the Freedman's Bureau, or some substitute having the same purpose, would have to be continued at least a year longer, for the settlement of questions of natural importance, as touching labor, relief for the helpless, justice and privileges, such as the ownership of lands, or the rental of asylums, schools, churches &c. &c.

I was sorry for the policy adopted, of restoring lands to pardoned owners, without affixing conditions, but finding the
do
administration would do so, I believe it will not to discriminate
in favor of one section of any state against another.

The sea islands will be restored, provided matters can be arranged satisfactorily to a board of supervisors, in which each party, the Government, the planter and the freedman, has a representation. Also upon condition of signing a written obligation, securing to the freedman the privilege of having

two months to decide as to contracts, by rental, or for wages, to have all they have raised- and schools undisturbed.

I do not think many farms will get back before the meeting of Congress, though this may be done if the planters and freedmen can enter into agreement mutually satisfactory. I believe the Government will be obliged to purchase those islands, and allot them for rental, and subsequent purchase to the negroes.

The papers have made misstatements about Fullerton and La. as I can easily explain. An article in the "Chronicle" this morning, is quite correct with regard to La.

I am ready to execute any law or order that I can, which Congress or Government shall set me to. I have worked hard for what seemed the best interest of the freedmen. Put the militia under the command of the Dept. or Dist. commanders, and our operations will not be hindered. There is quite a class of good men in the south, who are labouring hard to bring up public sentiment to a more sensible plain.

The minds of white men have been so long enslaved by prejudice and habit, that it will require time and education to bring them to a respectable degree of enlightenment.

Opposition to schools and to equality before the laws, and to freedom of thought and expression, are as patent now in every state I visited, as they were in the same localities before the war. The required oath is really a hindrance to the circulation of good newspapers, as it prevents the establishment of post offices, where they are so much needed. I think coloured troops in the [?] have an advantage, but that through the disturbance of labor for miles around the garrison, is to be deprecated, when considered solely with regard to the interests of the freedmen.

There are many points I would like to mention, but time forbids.

Very Truly Yours,

(Signed) O. O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

War Dept. Bureau R. F. and A. L.

Washington, D.C. Dec. 8th, 1865

Hon. Charles Sumner

Dear Sir.

The papers in regard to suits against Lessees, after restoration of property in La., have been referred to me. I find one plantation, said to belong to Mrs. Brianger, a loyal woman, restored upon application according to the conditions imposed under the President's instructions. She now brings suit against the Lessee, for waste and and [sic] damages. Also brings suit for the 18th of the crop, reserved for the Government. My opinion is, that a loyal owner should look to the government, and not to the Lessee, for damages, he being accountable to the Government.

Many similar cases will arise where leases have been given by Government Agents, during the war, in the several insurrectionary States.

I have allowed rents to the owners of property restored, from the date of the pardon, and have not authorized the surrender of back rents. Perhaps some legislation may be necessary to protect lessees after the restoration of property to original owners, and to prevent these troublesome suits for damages, after the lease shall have expired. Lands have been held as confiscated, and as abandoned.

The confiscated are of two classes - those actually sold, those libled [sic] and condemned to sale. Many of the latter have been restored. The abandoned are also of two classes - those abandoned in the sense of the law, and those vacated by loyal refugees.

Circular 15 enclosed, gives the terms of restoration.
As there is some doubt with regard to the Government title
in Abandoned lands, it is uncertain whether or not a
suit could be maintained against the Govt. for damages.
I should like to have the whole matter of lands looked
into, and arranged beyond question.

Very respectfully your obt. servt.

(sig'd) O. O. Howard, Maj. genl.

Washington, Dec. 29th, 1865

Major G. W. Nichols

Major.

Your letter of the 29th was received this morning. The matter relative to which you write, is one to which I have given much thought since the establishment of the Bureau. In a bill which I have drawn up for the consideration of the Congressional Committee on "Freedmen's Affairs," I have recommended that there be set apart in Florida, Mississippi and Arkansas, for the use of loyal refugees and freedmen, good land, not to exceed three million acres. My idea is to settle these lands, with those who desire land as homesteads for themselves and families, for the destitute, and for all who look for a place of refuge from the oppression of the whites. This provides a [sic] outlet for simple labor. I consider this, to a certain extent, an experiment, and do not deem it advisable to carry it too far at present. To remove all the freedmen from the South would in my opinion, be a great mistake. The feeling of hostility now existing between the two races, I do not regard as permanent. The interests of both tend to decree it. If we can only bring the whites to do the negroes justice, (and I hope this may be done in due time) I think it preferable that they remain where they are, rather than attempt to colonize in large numbers.

Respectfully,

(Sig.) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, Jan. 10th, 1866

J. H. Chapin, Esq.

Secy. A. M. Freedmens Aid Commission

Dear Sir.

Your letter of the 8th instant has just been received. I am sorry I cannot comply with your request to be with you Jan. 29th.

I am endeavoring to make my arrangements so as to lecture in Boston on the evening of Feb. 1st.

With regard to General Fisk, his duties are now quite pressing, having to organize his force in Kentucky. The Secy. of War disapproved his leaving his field on a similar invitation a short time since. I would prefer therefore that you make your application directly to him.

The recommendations I have made in my report are already embodied in two bills, and introduced into Congress, one by Senator Trumbull, and the other by Mr. Elliott [sic] of Massachusetts. I presume you have seen them in print. There are two points on which I feel very urgent, one, that the freedmen as far as possible, shall have the actual possession of land, and the other, that school privileges be extended to them, and secured. I believe the rights at least will be affixed to the freedmen by the present Congress. The holding of land, and education to be a living reality, will have to be backed up by the influence and money of the philanthropic people of the country.

Wishing you every success, I am

Very truly yours,

(Sig.) O.O.Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, Jan. 14th, 1866

W. W. Trescott Esq.

Charleston, S.C.

Dear Sir.

I received your letter some time since and wished to reflect upon it a day or two, and then answer it, but unfortunately mislaid it, and think it must have been destroyed. I have read your able letter to the Charleston Daily News, Jan. 6th. I think you have mistaken my spirit. My news with regard to land, are grounded upon the belief, that the farmer shares earned something besides a bare subsistence. Further, quite a large number of planters have taken the course I recommended, giving lands as a homestead to heads of families, and I honestly believe this the very best course, as a matter of interest for the large landed proprietors [sic] to pursue. You must recognize the fact, that the freedmen from no inconsiderable part of your people, and had you voluntarily made them free, as wise men, y you would have made ample provision for them, not only in permit of fundamental rights, but in permit of privileges which might have a tendency to elevate them.

You will notice before this that you have a new Asst. Commissioner for South Carolina.

I thank you for the candor of your first article.

Very truly yours,

(Sig) O. O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, Feb. 28th, 1866

General Tillson

Dear General,

You will have received an answer to your inquiries by my circular. The President, I think, is in the hands of W. H. Seward, to some extent. Cases of crime and misdemeanor eventually multiply, so that I think the President will be obliged to use us as an arm of strength to him, to keep the peace. He never has been an enemy to the Bureau, but his southern friends, many of them, are. He has expressed himself as satisfied with its conduction. If any change is made, you shall be apprised, and you may be assured you will not be forgotten. We can not now give over the cause of the freedmen.

With my kind regards,

(sgd.) O.O. Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, March 21st, 1866

Gen. D. Tillson

Dear General,

Bradley has come here, and is besieging us. Do you think it would do harm for him to go back to Georgia? Are there grounds for his pardon? He says you think more favorably of him, than when in Savannah, and thinks you can recommend his pardon.

Very truly yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard, Maj. Genl.

P.S. I get the best reports of your success from all persons worth believing.

Washington, March 23rd, 1866

Bvt. Maj. Gen. W. Swayne

Ast. Com. Ala.

General.

Mrs J B [Comer?] Columbus Ala. has two plantations in Alabama. I have conversed with her, and like the manner in wick she has ca[irr?]ed in ner plantations. I would ~~be~~ very much pleased to hear from her, through you, or directly, as to her sucess.

She proposed to establish a system of [tenantcy?] which I would be very much pleased to hear from. [sic]

Very Respectfully,

(sig.) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, April 12th, 1866

Gen D. Tillson

Asst. Com., Ga.

Dear General:

Your letter of April 6th is rec'd. I will see Gen. Grant with regard to your being Dept. Commander. I think he favors it, but believe the Secy of War does not. However the Dept. will probably be enlarged, if so we will give you the district of Georgia. With reference to selling land, you will notice section 4th of the circular permits the sale to a refugee or freedman - land to which the U. S. has title. I have approved the sale of the lots you mention, and the title will be as good as anything short of Congress can give.

You will see that the President's proclamation is not intended yet to suspend martial law. Gen. Strong commended you and your course most highly in his report. Your work is so important, and will live so long that I hope you will continue in it, till an Assistant Commissioner in Georgia is no longer necessary. The "civil rights bill" will be sent you officially soon. It will enable you to correct what the state courts may have undone.

With great confidence and affection

I am truly yours.

(sgd.) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen. Com.

P.S. The volunteer officers will not be mustered out yet, not so long as Texas is excepted.

(sgd) O.O.Howard, U.S.

Washington, D.C.

April 12th, 1866

Rev. Geo. Whipple,

Dear Sir.

I am engaged to be present at
the anniversary of the Bible Society next month,
but I do not know the precise date. Can you
ascertain when it will take place, and let me
know, and so oblige

Very truly yours,

(sig) O.O.Howard, Maj. Genl.

Washington, D.C.

April 28th, 1866

Prof. Lemuel Moss

University of Lewisburg.

Dear sir.

You ask me "how long, to what extent, and for what purposes will the freedmen continue to need special assistance of volunteer benevolence from the North."

With regard to common school education, I notice a gradual change for the better in public sentiment in nearly every state of the South, but closed schools will hardly be tolerated, should the United States protection be withdrawn, in the greater portion of the Southern States.

In the large cities, a few private colored schools would doubtless be continued, but the testimony from every quarter is in form, as to the opposition on the part of the majority of the white people. My opinion is that this inertia will be overdone in the course of ten years, and perhaps sooner, if the government asserts and maintains its proper authority. As to religious education, the whole southern field will be missionary ground for some years. I mean among the freedmen, on account of their poverty. Every church will have to sustain its pastors and religious teachers through the ordinary missionary machinery. With regard to the poor, there will undoubtedly be adopted some system by each state for caring for its poor, so that the material aid given to supply food, clothing and medicines, will not be likely to be needed more than a year or two longer. However

certain Orphan Assylums may continue for a long time,
dependent on benevolent contribution. I believe there
are two thousand teachers, at least, working for benevolent contribution
organizations, at an average cost of \$500.00 each per annum.
This you will notice foots up to a million dollars.
I am not sufficiently acquainted with the working
of benevolent associations, to give you a fair estimate
of the cost of such work in the Southern States. The
rations issued, and the clothing distributed under
the direction of this Bureau, and the facilities
afforded for education, employment, and for
securing legal justice, have been over and
above the ordinary benevolent contributions.
My report to Congress will give you as fair
an exhibit of such expenditures, up to the date
of its completion, as any I could now render.

Hoping these statements may afford you
such hints as you desire, I remain

Very truly yours,

(Sig.) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

May 5th, 1866

Gen. Davis Tillson

Asst. Comr. Freedmans' Bureau at Savannah

Dear General

Allow me to introduce to you, Bishop D. A. Payne of the Methodist church. He is an excellent man, and I would be glad of any facilities he may receive at your hands in his work.

Very truly yours,

(sgd) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington D. C.

May 7th, 1866

Gen. W. Swayne

Dear General.

Mr. F. Freeman had a letter
of introduction dated some seven weeks since,
which he lost in Alabama, he thinks a circular
letter. If anybody presents it, you will know he
is not honest.

Respectfully,

(sig.) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

May 7th, 1866

Gen. D. Tillson

Dear General

Is it really so, that no man can say what he thinks in Augusta, Ga. without being in danger of offending the delicate sensibilities of the ennemies (sic) of the country! Must we bow and scrape forever? I have just read your kind letter. At Petersburg, they have burned their churches. At Hampton they are burning houses, school buildings, churches etc. We must do right firmly, and not yield too far.

Affectionately yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

May 14th, 1866

Capt. D. Hall

My dear friend.

I thank you heartily for your remembrances of me, and for your kind letter. You may put me down for a lecture next fall some time, and I may say that the people have given me \$100 per lecture, except in Boston, where they vote'd (sic) me \$200. If I can get there, I don't think the price will trouble much.

Very truly yours,

(Sig.) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

May 15th, 1866

Gen. A. Baird

Asst. Com^r.

Dear General.

Your letter has been received with regard to bevets &c. I felt a little guilty and sorry, lest I had neglected your interest. Gen. Townsend says that the Secretary named for appiontment, the officers immediately under him, while he depended on the Boards for other recomendations. He said the General officers' reports had been searched for such mention as could be found. I went to Kelton, who told me you were placed, just where Generals Sheridan and Thomas put you. So much complaint has come in from officers, that the Senate has reconsidered the confirmations. I also saw Gen. Grant and conversed with him with regard to your case. He said it was hard to do justice. I did want you to come here, but I saw that Louisiana was much more important, so that I filled Gen. Eaton's place here, thinking that you were contented to remain at New Orleans. I hope you can get our debt there paid entirely off before you give up. Generals Sheridan and Fullerton are making campaign attacks on the Bureau, from ostensible inspections. They will necessarily push you as far as they can, because you succeeded in two senses. I wish you could remain, and be ready for them. Possibly you can make your Northern trip, and be back by the time they reach Louisiana. Please write immediately on receipt. I will write you with reference to having a lawyer or solicitor to carry up cases, just as soon as I see the fall of my appropriation bill.

Very truly yours,

(Sig) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

May 18th, 1866

Mr. Whipple.

My dear Mr. Whipple.

Yours of yesterday is just received. I hardly intended to defend G. O. Glavis, concerning whose true character, I learned while in New York. I believe him to be a bad man, and as you will readily understand, have taken immediate measures to have him displaced.

Very truly yours,

(sig.) O.O.Howard, Maj. Gen.

P.S. I only intended to defend those officers whom I mentioned, and whom you were interested in. I never will attempt to cover up the chicanery of villains.

(sig.) O.O.H, M.G.

Washington, D.C.

May 25th, 1866

Thos. W. Conway

Dear Sir.

Your first letter I recieved and answered hastily, but concluded on reflection to destroy the answer. The tempo of this letter seems to me quite different from the other, therefore allow me to say that I am grateful for your expression of sympathy, and for your prayers.

Gen. Baird, who is your successor is equally radical with yourself. Gen. Scott as much so, as Gen. Saxton, and Gen. Gregory has now been retired from duty in the Bureau, and probably will not be while I remain in it. No subordinate officer can be successful against his superior by making war upon him. Whatever may be your opinion, I shall do in the future, as I have endeavored to do in the past, that is to stand firmly by my own convictions of what is right. Nothing irritates me more than the [importation ?] of moral cowardice. I wish to assure you, my dear sir, that I am not afraid of accusations, and while the present Congress lasts, I don't believe the cause of the freedmen will be given over altogether.

This letter is strictly confidential.

Very respectfully yours,

(Sgd.) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

June 5, 1866

Gen. D. Tillson

Dear Tillson:

I have just received your kind letter. I do not agree with you, with regard to Sledman and Fullerton. Neither would you endorse them, had they started from Washington, with the armed purpose of ruining you. I know some agents are corrupt, but I knew you were honest, and had a hundred such men as F&S said Tillson is a dishonest man, I would say, "it is a lie." Whittlesey is equally true with yourself. S&F did not send in their reports. They were published in the N.Y. Herald. I hope you do not suppose I care for myself in this matter. I do not intend to resign. I have made and shall make no apology, and do not misunderstand me, I am not afraid to do what is right. The very same men now are abusing us for doing what a short time since they urged us to do. The Southern people curse us when we are helping them, but I propose to continue to feed the hungry as in Ala. and Ark. I hope you will not write much in justification of the men, who prevented the strewing of flowers upon the graves of our soldiers. For, right or wrong, the feeling is intense against the course Braman pursued.

Very truly yours,

(sgd.) O. O. Howard, Maj.Gen.

Washington, D.C.

June 12th, 1866

Maj. A. Mordecai

Sir.

General Howard desires me to say that the
address you ask for is Chas. A. L. Sampson, late Lieut. Col.
of 3^d Maine Infantry, Bath, Maine.

I am very respy,

Your Obt. Servt.

(Sgd.) J. A. Sladen

Lieut. & A.D.C.

War Dept.

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & A.L.

Washington, D.C.

June 15th, 1866.

His Excellency, Andrew Johnson

President of U. S.

Dear Sir.

Bvt. Brig. Gen. A. Hickenloper [sic]

is, I believe recommended for U. S. marshal for a District in Ohio.

He served in my command and from it that of Gen.

McPherson, till the close of our campaign. He was always prompt, brave, and thoroughly competent to discharge every duty which devolved upon him. As a Military Engineer, I hardly ever found his equal. His record with Gen.

Sherman, Gen McPherson, and Genl. Blair was uniformly that of marked ability and gallantry. Without qualification, I join in the high recommendations, Gen.

Hickenlooper already has, and feel confident he will conscientiously and thoroughly discharge the duties that the new position may impose upon him.

Very respy.

Your obt. servt.

(Sig) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

June 19th, 1866.

Capt. J. E. Bryant

Dear Sir.

Your letter is just received. I am sorry
sorry [sic], that two men in important public positions, cannot
agree. Pray pardon, and see if God will not point out
the means of reconciliation. Anger and hate please the
enemies [sic] of our country, as well as Satan. Upon the
merits of the case, I do not sit in judgement.

Yours truly,

(sig) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D. C.

June 19th, 1866

Gen. D. Tillson

Dear General,

Your ideas with regard to meeting the wants of the destitute, are coincident with men's. The country on the vicinity of Rome, Cartersville, Atlanta, etc. is, you know, completely desolated.

I saw Sen. Fessenden last night, and we had a conversation with regard to yourself. It is a great pity you cannot get over your anger against Capt. Bryant. Our ennemies (sic) look upon it as a fine quarrel. Your friends take sides for and against you. I do wish you could treat this whole matter with masterly inactivity.

Your true friend,

(sgd.) O. O. Howard, Maj. Gen.

Washington, D.C.

July 18th, 1866

Maj. Gen. Tillson

Comr of Georgia

Sir:

General Howard desires me to state that a young man, formerly an officer of the Army, is desirous of obtaining a position as clerk, agent or superintendant of the Bureau in your state, and to ask if you need the service of such a person. He is highly recommended by Members of Congress.

Very respectfully

Your obdt. servt.

(sgd.) J. A. Sladen, U.S.A.

Lieut. & Priv. Secy.

Washington, D.C.

Aug. 4th, 1866

Mr. G. H. Fullerton

My dear sir.

I have recieved and very carefully considered your kind letter, and my first impulse was to comply with your request, but I think, all things considered, I had better not.

When Gen. F. was assailed at New Orleans, I wrote to several public journals, and stopped the abuse, but the moment General Fullerton joined General Steedman to break down the Freedmens Bureau, and particularly after the North Carolina report, my mouth was shut in his defense. When with me during and after the war, his private conduct and habits were above reproach. I have heard painful rumors and stories concerning him, during the late tour of inspection, but have myself attributed them to his late associations. Drunkenness, debauchery, and gambling have been attributed to the party from Washington to Texas, but I could not believe General Fullerton guilty of these vices.

I write you frankly, but think it injudicious to publish and likely to open up all sorts of stories, which Gen. F. would rather not see, or be at the trouble of refuting.

The position these gentlemen, Genls. F. & S. have taken, is so strong against the work, committed to me, that an attempt to defend either of them on my part would be misunderstood.

Very truly yours,

(Sig) O. O. Howard,

Major Genl. Commisioner

Washington, D.C.

Aug. 6th, 1866

Maj. Gen. A. Baird

Dear General.

Whatever may be said or published, I commend you with all my heart, for the firm stand you took in the late troubles in New Orleans. I hope you are well sustained by Genl. Sheridan. How happened his decree against the Union men who met in convention? Was not that published by some enemy? His last dispatch to Gen. Grant. did not read that way. The work at New Orleans is sad, but I believe it is for the good of the whole country. Our eyes are open. What will you try for in the ne Organization?

Yours truly and sincerely,

(Sgd.) O. O. Howard

Maj. Genl. Commr.

Washington, D.C.

August 6th, 1866.

Hon. W. E. Dodge

My dear friend.

Enclosed please find the letter
you ask for. New Orleans matters look ill, but the
wrath of man is made to praise Him. Would that
our Father above would turn the heart and mind of
Mr. Johnson to himself.

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd) O. O. Howard,

Major Genl. Commr.

Washington, D.C.

August 27th, 1866

Genl. C. B. Fisk

Dear General.

Your letter of 23^d inst. is just received. Thanks for your kind words. I have not the slightest idea of resigning, or of asking to be relieved. With regard to the latter, I know nothing as yet. It is however possible, yes probable that I shall be before long. In a conversation the other day with the President, I mentioned these rumors concerning my removal. He replied that the rumors did not come from him. That correspondents said things one day to contradict the next. The President has shown a little pique by removing my brother Charles from a majority, and substituting an unknown man for him, after Charles had been recommended by General Grant and the Secretary. But General, I shall never flinch from what I believe to be right, as long as God gives me the strength to act. Such is my purpose.

Your muster out I presume has reached you. You go with every other Volunteer General. I hope General Thomas will be able to select for District Commissioner some officer satisfactory to him, and who will make a good Assistant Commissioner. You have performed your duty most faithfully, and were there a living possibility, I would like to retain you. I presume however that you would rather leave now with all the rest, than remain under present circumstances.

Give my kindest regards to your wife and children, and pray for me that I may do my duty.

General Townsend likes your book very much - says an old servant of his is perfectly delighted with it. I was very much pleased with the book as far as I read.

Very truly yours

(Sgd.) O. O. Howard

Major General Commissioner

Washington, D.C.
August 30th, 1866.

J. R. Sypher

Dear Sypher.

Your short note is received. I don't believe I shall be removed until after the elections. The President has mediated it, and I think proposed it, but as long as Secy. Stanton remains, I shall be likely to.

I am aware that I shall have to seize some rations after October to prevent starvation in S.C., Ga., Ala., and Ark.

Yet I felt determined to shut up these [?akers ?] and maligners who constantly assert that we are feeding people in idleness.

Mr. Johnson was pretty mad at our last interview fierce upon Baird and a sub agent in Texas, but we parted very good friends at the end of our hour and a half. I think I may be able to initiate plans for education, that will have a lasting effect for the benefit of the freedmen, if I am removed. If Tillson should be assigned, and the President would sustain him, he would have a vigorous ~~administration~~^{*} administration, but it would be

[* typo.]

[p. 2:]

some time before the negroes would regard him as friendly, if at all. My brother Charles has been removed from his new appointment by the President. This is undoubtedly a [dub ?] at me. Baird has written me a private letter which I wish you could see. I would be glad to get any suggestions from you, from your point of view. You have been with me in dark days before. I want to see two things transpire - one is a great outpouring of the spirit of God upon the land - the other is the very election which would grow out of such an event.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd) O. O. Howard,

Major Genl. Commr.

Washington, D.C.

Sept. 10th, 1866

Genl. Davis Tillson

Augusta, Ga.

Dear General:

Allow me to introduce to you Rev. G. J. Smith of Georgia. He is much interested in education. Mr. Ebenhart must get him to do what he can in his county and vicinity. I like his view very much, as expressed to me on the subject of education.

Very truly yours

(sgd) O.O.Howard

Major Genl. Commr.

Washington, D.C.

September 12th, 1866.

Genl. Sam^l. Thomas
Zanesville, Ohio.

Dear General.

Your two kind letter have
been received. Accept my hearty thanks.

Maine shows that thy positive influence is not needed
in the present contest, so that I can afford to act
according to the dictates of conscience and duty,
if perchance expediency has tempted me to abandon
any uncomfortable position. Perhaps the most Congress
may be able to accomplish, the letting in the [sic]
Southern representatives, without letting down the
republic. We are getting on very well, though all
I can expect to do, is by the power of appropriation and
social influence. All true men must be prepared
to suffer in the present, for the sake of liberty and
good [i.e. good ?] government for our children. I shall always
be glad to hear from you.

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd) O. O. Howard,

Major Genl. Commissioner.

Washington, D.C.

Sept. 22^d, 1866.

Rev. George Whipple.

Dear sir,

General Howard desires me to say in
reply to your letter of 20th inst. that he will endeavor
to retain General Armstrong at Fort Monroe, and
that to this end, he has just written General Brown at
Richmond.

Very respectfully,

(sgd) J. A. Sladen,

Lieut. U.S.A. A.D.C.

Washington, D. C.

Sept. 26th, 1866

Gen. Wager Swayne

Dear General

I have sent a circular to each
Governor of Southern states, requesting a copy of laws etc.

My object is to be able to report to Congress the facts,
particularly those that are favorable to the states.

I will send general Sewall to you in a few days to
[correct a methoid?] of supply, to inspect Ala. in conjunction
with some inspector of yours. What officers could you
trust fully to go to make purchases of supplies.

Yours truly

(sig.) O. O. Howard

Maj. Gen. Commr.

Washington, D.C.

Sept. 30th, 1866

Major Genl. Wager Swayne

Montgomery, Ala.

My dear friend.

I want to ask you to aid my church enterprise, to the extent of one hundred dollars. I feel great delicacy in asking, but I hope you will not have any in refusing, if you think you cannot conscientiously help us. We have laid our foundation, but wish to go straight on. I have loyalty, religion, benefit to young men and care at heart in this enterprise.

Affectionately yours,

(Sd.) O. O. Howard

Major Genl. Commr.

Washington, D.C.

Sept. 30th, 1866

Gen. Davis Tillson

Dear General

I don't know but you have so many calls for your benevolent gifts, that you will deem it an intrusion for me to write this, but I will make bold to ask, and you must do as you have the right to do to other beggars. Could you give us a present of one hundred dollars for our church edifice? Perhaps Deane has already forestalled me. Our foundation is nearly done, and we wish to push straight on to a completion.

All well I hope with you and yours. Charles is not well yet, but is convalescent.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd.) O.O.Howard

Maj. Gen. Comm.

Washington, D.C.

October 14th, 1866

Genl. Wager Swayne

Asst. Commr., Ala.

Dear General,

I I was delighted with your kind letter and your generous
contribution. Accept my warmest thanks and most affectionate regards.

Yours truly,
(Sgd) O. O. Howard
Major Genl. Commr.

Washington, D.C.

October 15th, 1866

General Davis Tillson

Dear General,

General Howard has just left for a short visit to Maine. He received your confidential letter, but did not have time write before going. He directed me to say for him "I don't think there is any possible harm in what he proposed."

Very Respy. Yours

(sgd) J. A. Sladen, U.S.A.

Lieut & A.D.C.

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Washington D.C.

Oct. 22d, 1866

General Wager Swayne

Dear General.

Your letter of the 17th inst. to General Howard is just received, and as he is away, I take the liberty of replying. The general has gone home on a leave and will come back probably by way of Cincinnati at the time of the meeting of the Army of the Tennessee. He is now in New York, and I shall forward your letter to him tonight by General Sewall, who is going to there to meet him.

I am, General,

Very respy. [sic] yours

(sgd) J. A. Sladen

A.D.C. Pri. Secy.

Washington, D.C.

Oct. 29th, 1866

Gen. Davis Tillson

Dear Sir,

General Howard will not be in Washington until about the 16th proximo.
His address until about the 11th of November, will be Leeds, Maine.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

(sgd) J. A. Sladen,

Lieut. U.S.A. A.D.C.