...Section second requires patriarchal care
over the laborers and their families, on the part of
the employer or superintendent. It strikes me this
is going stright back to the old system, where kind
gentlemen held slaves. Ostensibly it is humane
enough, but practically the arrangement is
servile in character. Section third imposes a fine
and dismissal which bad men could take advantage
of: The correction of the evil is to be made by the
executive committee in which the laborer has no voice;
and we know practically that the colored man's state­
ment would have very little might against his employer,
before such executive committee. Section fourth
gives the power of outlawing a man without due
process of law for his offence. As a citizen I would
be unwilling to submit to such judgement. Section
fifth to my mind is wholly objectionable. The
laborer has no chance to take advantage of the
market value of wages. An employer may keep men
at his will, under his complete control, by with­
holding his consent, and the executive committee
is not so constituted as to give the laborer assu­
rance of justice. Section sixth is good so far as
it goes, but without a thorough system of schools
so as to educate all the children, and give them
all the chances of the acquirements of skill of which
they are capable, sunday schools would be insuf­
ficient, and the laborers would soon become
discontented, if they found other children having privileges beyond the reach of their own. Section eighth will add to the tendency of fixing a bad system upon the entire community. Article third, section first - I deem it far better to procure supplies from private associations or factors, giving a lien upon realty. The lien upon the crops in an unfavorable season works badly for the laborers. Section second is objectionable altogether, because it contemplates the removal of Americans for no offence whatever - the removal of laborers that are necessary to develop the resources of the country, and laborers whose children may become skilled, by the adoption of proper systems under our Government. The same objection would lie against the transporting the freedmen away, as to transporting the white people, who had conducted themselves properly as citizens of the Government. Jealousies and prejudices do exist, it is true, but in the process of time these will be removed, and no reason in the world exists against the adoption of the free system which has worked so well in the Northern States, and letting it apply to every man of every class, condition or color. Colonization was doubtless a relief in terms of slavery, but this unnecessary and thoroughly impracticable to transport the masses of our freedmen beyond the limits of our republic. We have plenty of uncultivated lands, millions of acres fertile in character, and by a proper distribution of labor, plenty of food can be raised by all. Further than this a few years will show
an increase in the prosperity of the Country, following a proper
distribution of labor, if we are wise enough to give to it
the dignity and protection that labor always demands.

Should the "Labor Union" be formed in Madison
Parish, which I hope it may not, there could be no objection
to section 3d, and surely the planters cannot do better
than repair the levees and it will be necessary to have
a general co-operation in that great work.

I have candidly reviewed your Constitution
and By-Laws, and see no possible changes that I
could suggest, which would make such a cooperation
or association consistent with what we must have -
I mean a free system.

A simple association of gentlemen for their mutual
benefit can always be formed, and the gentlemen in
your parish could organize with a view to securing your
factor or factors for any loans they might give you.
If the association should be made for this purpose, and
would keep its hands off from labor, without attempting to
cripple, degrade or contest it, I certainly should offer
no objection; for while our beneficent Government keeps
me in this position, for the purpose of defending the
interests of the poor and helpless, I will not willingly
express an opinion, approve a contract, or sanction an
organization, which is evidently against the laborer's
interest.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(sd) O.O. Howard

Washington, D.C.
Jany. 10th, 1868

Rev. T. W. Conway,

New Orleans, La.

My dear Sir.

Your letter of the 5th inst. is just received. I am very much obliged to you for the information contained in it, and are still to you for the labor you have expended; and are still expending for a good cause, and for humanity.

I have great regard both for Mr. Chase and General Grant, and if I were to say today which I believed the best for the country, all things considered, in the President's chair, I could not, with my present information, give a judicious decision.

General Grant's sympathies appear to me to be on the side of loyalty, reconstruction and freedom. I find General Meade is about to take just the right course with a Rebel official in Georgia, which will indicate his (General Meade's) policy.

We will try to get a good Commissioner for Alabama, if the powers that be will permit, but the necessities are so pressing there for just such men as yourself, that I should be glad if your Committee would keep you in Alabama till the constitution question shall be decided. I have directed Langston to be there by the 20th inst. to make an inspection in that state.

I shall be exceedingly pleased if you can become speedily School Commissioner of reconstructed Alabama.
Do you know Buchanan, and did you move him in your [?]

With much regard, I remain

Very truly yours.

(signed) O. O. Howard,

Jan'y 13th 1868

Hon. Henry Wilson

Dear Sir,

The moment
I heard of Col. [Calles?] action, I
directed Genl. Swayne to have
him relieved and an application
to that effect has already gone to
the Secretary of War.

Very truly Yours

O. O. Howard

Maj. Gen.
Washington, D.C.

Jan. 29th, 1868

Maj. Genl. W.S. Hancock, U.S.A.

Comd'g 5th Mil. District.

New Orleans, La.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to ask for two sets of the General Orders issued from the Headquarters of the 5th Military District, during the year 1867; for the use of this Bureau.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(sd) O.O. Howard

Feb. [1st?] [186]8

General H. V. N. Boynton

Dear General

I see by a letter of yours in "Cincinnati Gazette" that you commit me together with certain officers and agents of this bureau, on the subject of amalgamation. As I have hardly canvassed the subject, and have expressed no opinion pro or con, it is better not to commit me further.

Very Truly Yours

O. O. Howard

Private & Major General

Confidential
Hon. T. D. Eliot, M.C.
Chairman Com. Freedmen's Affairs.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with your request, I submit the following statement with regard to the portion of my last annual report, recommending the discontinuance of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

You will notice that I based my recommendation to allow the Bureau to expire by limitation of law, "on the belief that each of the several States, where the Bureau exists or has existed, will be completely reconstructed by next July, and the freedmen having all the rights of citizenship, can protect themselves with such aid as the United States military force may be able to render, the only bar to this result being the ignorance of those who have not yet been reached by the influences of education.

Since writing the report in question, I have attempted to discharge all the officers and agents of the Bureau from certain States, and in part from certain other States. A reaction against the interests of the Freedmen immediately followed. This I did not anticipate.

Officers and agents of the Bureau are required to bring all cases involving a violation of the Civil Rights Act, before the United States courts. Where this was possible, though the cases may have
been few, yet the effect has been very salutary.
The removal of the officers and agents necessarily
takes away this protection. Again the practical
effect of discharging the officers and agents has been
to close up the schools; to intimidate union men,
and colored people, and, in fact, to paralyze
almost completely the work of education, which
was until then, in a healthful condition and
prospering.

The pressing need of relief has rendered obli-
gations necessary, which cannot easily be met
and fulfilled so early as next July. For example
the issues that I have made, and am making
to prevent starvation, carry with them liens upon
the future crops, or other property, which will require
settlement. Moreover, in many parts of the
country, as for example, in portions of Tennessee,
local magistrates are still in power, who are
utterly opposed to the practical freedom and
elevation of the colored people.

After having carefully canvassed
the whole field, and considered the liabilities
to oppression and want, likely to arise from a
too early withdrawal of the protecting of the
General Government from those who have been
distinctively loyal, I have come to the settled
conclusion that it would be wise to continue
the Bureau for at least one year longer
than I previously recommended - to continue
it till matters settle; till the new government
shall be not only established, but in practical operation, and be able and willing to afford the protection and the relief which the United States Government has rendered, and is now rendering through its instrumentality.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant

(sgd) O.O. Howard

Maj. Genl. Commissioner
Washington, D.C.
[ca. Feb.22, 1868]

Genl. C. C. Sibley

, Dear General,

Many thanks for your picture. I will send you as good a one of myself as I can find.

Very truly yours

(sgd) O.O. Howard

March 26th [1868]

Dear Sir:

In compliance with your request, I enclose a copy of the letter addressed by me to the Hon. T. D. Eliot on the 8th ult. in regard to that portion of my last annual report, which recommends the discontinuance of this Bureau on the [11th?] of July of the present year. The additional reasons that urge me now to recommend the continuance of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for another year are briefly as follows.

1st The universal desire for its continuance on the part of the freedmen and loyal whites of the South, who require its aid in the organization of labor
in the establishment and support of schools, and for the relief of those who are actually destitute and unable to work.

2d Combinations, sustained by a large capital, exist in the rebel states for the purpose of deterring the freedmen from the exercise of their vested civil rights, and those rights are now exercised by the freedman at his peril. In proof of this statement I need only refer to the open and outrageous conduct of the disloyal parties in the late election in Alabama. The loyal government now in progress of construction will enter upon the duties without money or credit adequate to meet the wants of their States and constituents. It will require several months to pass the necessary laws and levy, assess and collect the taxes requisite for the founding of hospitals and aid homes.
for the sick and helpless poor, and providing
schools and school-houses for the people.
As an incident to the formal reconstruction
of the rebel States the numerous garrisons now
there to preserve order and sustain the
authority of the Government will be with­
drawn, in whole or in part, thus leaving the
freedmen without the needed protection for
their interests as laborers or their rights as
citizens. I believe that the Bureau can
render that protection more effectually for
the freedmen, and more economically
for the Government, then could possibly be rendered without its agency. The pending
State and presidential elections are apt to in
crease or [develop ?] the elements of disorder in the South, by efforts on the part of employers to restrain by threats or punish by discharges, their colored
employees from casting their votes as republican freemen.

These elections will be the first of the kind in which the newly enfranchised freedmen have participated, and will be held at periods most vital to the gathering of the cotton and grain crops, and hence the danger that the freedmen, in their natural and proper zeal to exercise their rights as electors, may be led to neglect their duties as agricultural laborers. Thus far the influence of Bureau officers has been adequate to prevent or mitigate evils of this kind. These considerations make it exceedingly doubtful whether it would be just to the loyal whites and freedmen of the South, or safe for the Government to discontinue the Bureau during the present year.

I believe that no further appropriation
of funds by Congress, will be necessary to defray the expenses of the Bureau for the additional year.

The above remarks with the letter to Mr. Eliot are, I think, substantially what you wished my reasons for continuance.

I am dear sir,

Very respectfully

Your obt servt

O. O. Howard

Major General

Commissioner

Hon Henry Wilson

U.S. Senate

Washington D.C.
Washington, D.C.
April 7th, 1868

Bvt. Brig. Genl. O. Brown,

Dear General.

Your letter concerning appointments has been received. I will send you one officer, Major Townsend, who has been an officer of Volunteers, and whose son is on duty in Va. I believe he will do you good service, and surely he understands more thoroughly the workings of the Bureau, than one who has never been on duty, for he has been in the service of freedmen two or three years.

Such other appointments as you may need for temporary duty, please nominate at once.

Very truly yours,

(sgd) O. O. Howard,
Washington, D.C.
April 23rd, 1868

Bvt. Brig. Genl. O. Brown

Dear General,

Governor Pierpoint complains very bitterly that you and the Bureau are beating him badly, and insists that if I do not remove you, he will blow up the Bureau in Virginia. He avows that you represented to him that he was the man to unite the friends of the Union; that you made similar representations to Honnicut and others, and finally that you turned the whole power of the Freedmen's Bureau with a political channel, to the support of Mr. Wells, the present Governor. He regards you as a regular polititian. I write you this in confidence, that you may avoid breakers. I believe that I have never given any instructions on political subjects. Our duty is to execute the law faithfully and conscientiously, and if we can get line men in; I have no doubt you and I will be satisfied with the results.

My impression is that the Governor, who has seen Senator Wilson and others, and went from me to General Grant, is attributing to you what really belongs to the District Commander. He states that General Schofield is making rebel appointments.

Now our public men here are accustomed to believe everything they hear, unless somebody
contradicts it.

Yours faithfully,

(sd) O. O. Howard

Maj. General (sic), Comm.
Washington, D.C.
April 29th, 1868

Bvt. Brig. Genl. O. Brown

Dear General.

Important business detains me at Washington; besides my family is ill, so that it would inconvenience me to go to Richmond at the present time. I have decided to send General Whittlesey to represent me. Should you have a public meeting, the General is a good speaker, and will give you such a discourse as will please and be of service to the colored people.

Judging from the results in the reconstruction of South Carolina, I am inclined to the opinion that the Republican, colored and white, need no counsel from me; for I see that politically they are able to do their own work, and to do it well.

Of course as I am and have been diligently studying the various problems that convene there, I am deeply interested in the important events that are transpiring. My usual advice to those who ask it is: "choose good men for leaders, seek earnestly to do right, and trust the results with God."

With kindest regards,

I remain

Very truly yours,

(sgd) O. O. Howard
Washington, D.C.

May 11th, 1868

Rev. Geo. Whipple,

Sect'y A. M. A.

My Dear Friend.

As you are aware my interest is unabated in the great educational work of which your Association forms so prominent a part, and I regret exceedingly that I cannot be present with you and your Association on the occasion of your next anniversary. I am therefore deprived of the pleasure of refreshing my recollection there in regard to the details, and of mingling my sympathies and prayers with yours for the extension of your excellent system in the Southern States.
The coming year is the one al im-
portant. Good and true men, who love
the Lord Jesus Christ, must be made
to feel that we are in a transition
state; that the efforts to multiply centers
pushed
of education, must now be 
with rigor, so as to fill the entire so-
ciety with unwonted interest - enthusiasm
if possible - in the subject; that the
men just coming into power may
feel an absolute necessity to [add ?]
complete and thorough system of ed-
cuation. Now is the time for a
missionary association to work for
the Master. Churches of an elevated
character follow your schools as
naturally as the day follows the dawn.

I know people are poor and
taxes are heavy, and it seems almost
impossible to raise money; but I know also that there are two hundred and fifty thousand Christians, who each are worth upwards of fifty thousand dollars. I know further that the giving which costs a sacrifice and is a cross to bear does a man good in his soul, and is an investment for eternity. Let us remember that "God will render to every man according to his deeds, - to them who by patient continuance in well doing, seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life".

It is true we can not purchase eternal life with money, but we may lose our heritage by too much closeness, by neglecting to give
of our treasures at just such times
as these when the entire future of a race
depends on a little more vigorous
action and on increasing contri-
butions.

You must do in the future
as you have done in the past - that
is, draw largely on the bank of faith,
and continue your labors, supported by
the cheerful expectancy that you will
receive the blessing of your Divine Mas-
ter.

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,

O.O. Howard

May 14th [1868]

Hon. Cha$ Sumner, U.S.S.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

Allow me to introduce to you my worthy friend General A. von-Steinwehr, who commanded a division in the Army of the Potomac. He and his command were deservedly distinguished for their part in several battles, particularly in the battle of Gettysburg. I take pleasure in recommending him for the mission to Uruguay, which would be a proper recognition of his faithful service.

Yours truly and respectfully

(signed) O. O. Howard

Major General, Com