Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.

POST OFFICE.

Davenport, Iowa, 17th May, 1865.

My dear General:

The papers just received, announce that you have accepted the appointment of Chief of the "Freedmen's Bureau". I know but little of the particular duties with which you will be charged, but I doubt not they will be performed, under the blessing of God, to meet the wishes of the country, to the advancement of the best interests of the unhappy

race just born into manhood, and to the increase of your already high reputation.

Since we last met in the Army of the Potomac, I have watched your career with interest and admiration, and have often thought of almost the last conversation we had together on "H" street, touching the disposition that had been manifested in certain quarters to injure your professional reputation.

"The words of Him who spoke as

never man spoke," have been eminently verified: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake." You have reached no eminence in your profession of which any one might be proud, and your enemies — where are they?

But you are doubtless much occupied with your various duties, and I will not annoy you with a long letter. I desire

to congratulate Mrs. Howard on your safe return: to your family, and to express the hope that long years of usefulness and happiness are before you both. And with my best regards to her and yourself, I remain, very truly your friend,

O. O. Howard

Major General O. O. Howard,

Comdg. Bureau of Freedmen,

near Washington,

D. C.

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S EASTERN COMMITTEE
FOR THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION OF THE FREEDMEN.
Philadelphia,

Pittsburgh Pa. May 17th 1865.

Major General Howard,

Sir,

Just advised of your appointment as Commissioner or Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau, I hasten on behalf of our Committee to express our ardent desire that you will be led of God to accept the position, and that He will guide you wisely and well through with its manifold and perplexing responsibilities; for we have confidence both in Him and you for the elevation and evangelization of the freed.

The Genl. Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (O.S.) in the U.S. of America, meets in this City tomorrow (18th.) to continue its sessions through next week probably – Our Report on "the whole subject" and of what has been attempted by us in the experimental year, will be presented at an early day – & its consideration will likely be had early next week.

General, I have taken the liberty of sending you a copy, and respectfully solicit for it your attention. We desire to bring the Assembly, and through it the Churches to devise and to carry out a liberal scheme in some measure commensurate with the vastness of the claims of these millions upon us –

A few favorable words if received from you in time would greatly aid us in the Assembly – In the name of Christ and his poor people I earnestly desire such words from you – Any Message will reach me here "to Care of Rev. Dr. Paxton, Genl. Assembly" As soon as practicable after the G. Ass' adjourns, I shall be happy to call upon you at any time you may assign. Very Respectfully &c

Saml. F. Colt

Pittsburg, Pa.
May 17. 1865

Colt, Saml F

Friendly letter.

Rec'd May 1865

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Head Quarters District of Eastern Virginia,

Norfolk, Va., May 17 1865.

My dear Howard

I congratulate you my dear fellow upon your fresh laurels and what I see in your future. I am glad you have the position of Head of Negro affairs - Capt Brown has been under

me and I
know his mind -
He has just shown
me your letter -
With the happiest
memory of our
past association
and feelings of
American friendship
I am yours
Anthony Wayne

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Geo H Miller

Mr Jul Ell Hamed
Newark
Del

Norfolk Va,
May 17. 1865

Gordon Geo. H.

Friendly Letter.

Recd B. of F.R.&c May 1865

Boston May 17 1863.

Major Genl O. O. Howard

My dear Genl.

I have the honor in behalf of the Young Men's Christian Association of Boston to invite you to address them at their next Anniversary which occurs on Sunday Evening 28th inst. We have noticed with great satisfaction your career as a Christian Commander, alike successful in all the various ranks you have been called to fill, and are very desirous to have you make a short address to our young men. I would advise you that it is not a money making scheme and that we write after consultation with your friend Revd E. P. Webb. Very Resply

L. A. Chase.
43 Washington St.

Boston Heads Hospital

Chase, L. A.

Inviting Gen. Howard to lecture before Young Mens Christian Assn. in Boston on the 28th inst.

Answered.

Read F. B. H. May 18th 1865

St. Paul, Minn., May 17th, 1865.

Major Gen'l Howard,
Washington.

My Good Old Friend:

The telegraph makes me glad by the announcement, that you are appointed the head of the Freedmen's Bureau. Nothing, in this line, could have given me more heart-felt pleasure. You are the right man in the right place.

Doubtless, the mighty events, struggles, and sufferings of the last five years, have so filled your mind that you

have not once thought of your humble Peekskill acquaintance; it is natural and I blame you not. Still, I have not for a moment lost sight of my valued and distinguished West Point friend. I will not tell you how often, in the circles of my friends, I have pointed, and with just pride, to the high and glorious career of the once Prof., but then Genl, Howard. I must not do this.

I merely write now to express my gratification at your appointment, and to learn something, as one deeply interested in the general plans of your department. We have just organized, for the State of Minnesota, a Freedmen's Commission, and I have the honor to be one of the directors of the Commission. We shall be most happy to co-operate with you

in the great and Christian Work, to which by Providence and your Country, you have been called. Please to understand, that we, in this far North-west, are ready, are eager indeed, to aid you in the holy and patriotic endeavor.

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If it be not asking too much, please communicate your views and purposes.

Yours very truly,
Silas Hawley.

St. Paul, Minn.
May 14th. 1863

Hawley, Silas

Recd May 27. 1863

Philadelphia Penn.
May 17th 1865.

General.

I have seen a notice in the papers, that General Grant had ordered the Corps Commanders to recommend officers for positions in the regular Army. - and it being my earnest desire to remain in service, I would ask you to assist me with your influence.

I labor under the disadvantage of having as a Corps Commander a General, who only lately took the command, and is consequently but little acquainted with me. I shall however write to him, and ask him to send in my name. - In that letter

I will refer to you, for which I ask your pardon; but I have served with you the longest, and knowing your intimate acquaintance with Genl. Mower I take this liberty.—

Perhaps you know more about this order; if so you would exceedingly oblige me, if you would spare me a few lines.—

In a day or two I shall be well enough to rejoin the Corps, and "close the job".— I should be pleased, General, if I should find a letter from you, when I arrive at Headquarters, but perhaps your time will not allow it.—

Thanking you for all past kindness shown me

I remain

your most obed't serv't.

W. H. S. Masten

Philadelphia, May 17, 1865

Atkinson, G. W.
Lt. Col. & A. D. C. 20th Ill.

Asks for letter of recommendation for position in the regular Army.

A.

Of Army Staff for long trial as Insp. & Chf. of Ordnance & Cav. Officer

B. F. to Washg'n May 18th 1865. Reid.

HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, May 17 1865

Dumfries. Va. 9 PM.

Genl O O Howard. Washgtn DC

Dear General.

Your letter of May 12 enclosing General Order. War Dept No 91 of May 12 reached me here, on arrival at Camp about dark. Col Strong is camped just behind me. Logan abt 2 miles back and the 15th Corps at Acquia Creek & on back. Copies of Order No 91. are being made and will be sent back to them. I hardly know whether to congratulate you or not but of one thing you may rest assured that you possess my entire confidence and I cannot imagine that matters, that may involve the future of some millions of souls, could be put in

Man Charitable a Man Conscientious heard
So far as Man Can do. I think you will
but I fear you have Herculis task. God
has limited the Power of Man, and though
in the Kindness of your heart, you would
alleviate all the ills of humanity ~~but it~~
is not in your power. Nor is it in your
power to fulfil one tenth part of the Expec-
tations of those who found the Runaway
the Freedman, Refugee, and abandoned Slave.
It is simply impracticable. Yet you
Can and will do all the good one
Man May, and that is all you are Call-
ed on as a Man and Christian to do. And
to that Explicit Comfort or One as friend and
fellow Soldier for Counsel & assistance.
I think the Negro is Free by act of Nation
and by the Laws of War. Now ratified
by Actual Consent and Power. This,

demand for his labor. and his ability to govern & work land will enable the negro to work out that amount of freedom & political consequence to which he is a way be entitled by natural Right and the acquiescence of his fellow men. (white) But I fear that parties will agitate for the negroes Right of suffrage & equal political Status, not that he asks it or wants it. but merely to manufacture that number of available votes for Politicians to work on. If that be attempted to create a mad and dangerous element. Prejudice, which right or wrong does exist and should be consulted. There is a strong prejudice of race. which over ran other considerations. The negro is denied a vote in all the north States, save two or three, and there qualified by conditions

not attached to the White Race. and by the Constitution of the U.S. to States is left the Right to fix the qualification of voters. The U.S. cannot make negro voters in the South any more than they can in the North without Revolution. And as we have just emerged from our attempted Revolution, it would be wrong to begin another. I believe the negro is free Constitutionally and if the U.S. will simply guarantee that freedom and allow the negro to hire his own labor. the transition will be comparatively easy. but if we attempt to force the negro on the South as a voter. "a loyal citizen" we begin a new Revolution in which the North best may take a different side from what it did. when we were fighting to vindicate our Constitution. I am more than usually sensitive on this point because I have realized in our Country that one Class of men makes laws and

HEADQUARTERS, MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, 186

leave another to fight it out. I am tired of fighting and if the theorists of New England impose this new Constitution on us I dread the result. The Country is now deeply in debt. The South is exhausted and can contribute little towards its payment a nothing. No matter how severe the laws of taxation may be made, and the sale of homesteads & plantations will not realize one tenth part the money required to pay the troops that will be needed to impose the laws and maintain possession to the purchasers. I know the temper of the South far better than you do. And you at least cannot doubt the sincerity of my opinions. I do believe the People of the South realize the fact that their form Slaves are

per. and if allowed reasonable time. and
are not harassed by conspiracies and
political complications will very soon adapt
their condition and interests to this new
state of facts. Many of them will seek
a lower or easy terms part of their land
to their former slaves. and gradually the
same political state of things will result
as now exists in Maryland. Kentucky
and Missouri. The best will not submit
to the taxation necessary to maintain
separate Colonies of negroes. or the armies
needed to enforce the rights of negroes
dwelling in the South States in a
condition antagonistic to the feelings and
prejudices of their Race. the result of which
will be internecine war. and the final exter-
mination of the white or black race.
But I confess I am not familiar with the

laws of Congress which originated from Reconstruction and repeat my entire confidence in your pure & exalted character.

As to Mr Stanton I expect nothing. My order announcing to the troops the terms of the Convention (first) at Bennets Station was addressed to the troops & not to the world. Mr Stantons official Bulletin published to the world Conveyed false information, for it contained matter that he knew I did not possess, and has thereby stimulated a public attack on my motives. But what reason did my "order" give for his launching and endorsing Halleck's order to violate my truce, attack an enemy in the act of surrendering, when he knew Lee & Grant were present. (Page 27). and order to my juniors to disobey my order. I dont yet understand his motives and dont care. I did succeed in doing spite of him

all the good my office demanded within the limits of Sherman's command, and could as easily have extended them over the whole South. Stanton & Reams against my terms are all bad, and he knows it — His assertions that he could have made as good terms any time in the past four years is simply untrue and you know it. And as a lawyer he knows that my terms did not make a little by the Rebel debt, or in any manner recognize the South Confederacy any more than the Big Hill Cattle, or any of the many "terms" that were made before Any Commander. But I will not bother you with such matter. Stanton's & Halleck's conduct to me was an insult purely personal and I shall resent it as such when I choose.

We will all be near Alexandria on Friday and I know you will call to see us. But let the fond ties of boyhood's period your thoughts toward your old Comrade in Army

Truly your friend,

W. T. Sherman Lieut Gen

The United States Sanitary Commission, 128

Office, 244 F Street,

Washington, D. C., 18 May 1865.

Dear General.

This letter handed to you by my friend Mr. Frank Fowler, of whom I spoke to you this morning.

You can depend upon him as a reliable, honest and intelligent man, of excellent character in every respect. I hope it may coincide with your views of duty to give him a position in your new Bureau.

Very respectfully Yours

O. O. Wheeler.

Maj. Gen. Howard.

Washington D.C.
May 18. 1865

Webster J.D.

Friendly Letter.

Rec'd B of F. & B. May 1865

Bennington Vt. 18th May, 1864.

Gen. O. O. Howard:

May a stranger, while thanking you for the influence of a Christian character, connected with unquestioned bravery & efficiency in a soldier high in his country's confidence, ask for your autograph, with, if possible, a few words above it.

If I did not honor you above many of your compeers in the army, I would not presume to trouble you; but the object to be attained, invites the impertinence. We among the mountains far from the strife that shakes our land, love to speak your name as that of a fearless soldier of the "great Captain of our Salvation"; who se

record may be placed beside that of "Howard the Philanthropist" with no dimming of its lustre.

May God preserve you long to serve Him in serving your country, prays ever,

Your friend,

Anna C. Park.

Bennington, Vt. 18 May 65

Park, Miss Anna L.

Asks for the General's autograph.

Rec'd Wash'n May 27 1865

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NORTH-WESTERN FAIR

OF THE

Sanitary Commission and Soldiers' Home,

Rooms, 66 Madison Street.

U.S. SANITARY COMMISSION

Chicago, Ill., May 18th 1864 [1865]

Gen Howard

Dear Sir

Enclosed find Circular of Com. on Arms Trophies & Curiosities for our great Sanitary Fair.

We wish your autographic letter & as many of your Photographs as you may think well to send for the good of our brave boys.

Also any rare document, trophy or autograph you may have in your possession & willing to send for the good of our brave boys.

Yours Respectfully
James B. Bradwell
Chairman of above Com.

Chicago, Ills.
May 18. 1865

Bradwell, James B
Chairman N. W. Fair
of Sanitary Commission

Asking Autographic letter for Sanitary Fair.

Rec'd Burrian F.R.S.A.E. / May 27. '65

BROOKLYN AND LONG ISLAND
No. 16 Court Street.
"In God is our Trust."
CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

Office of the
Brooklyn & L. I. Christian Commission.

May 19th 1865.

Major Genl. Howard
Dear Sir

It gave me great pleasure to learn that you were appointed Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau. My deep interest in the present and future status of the long abused race must be my apology for taking so small a portion of your valuable time as is necessary to read this short letter. I herewith enclose two of my little books written expressly for Freedmen. Having devoted my time and labor to improve the religious condition of the army not only as Cor: Sec: of this Commission, but by writing and publishing some ten or twelve small books for their benefit; I now feel that our principal work

My address is, Rev. J. B. Waterbury, Cor: Sec:
Brooklyn L. I. Christian Commission
Brooklyn N. Y.

must be in behalf of the Freedman. The "Cautions" &c have been pretty extensively circulated; and as this class acquire the ability to read, I hope to furnish still more. My aim has been - as you will see - to write in the simplest language, not only that it may be easily understood; but that it may wean the negro from his peculiar dialect, and elevate him to a higher standard. I have taught to make the Boats, also Christian Practice.

Our great work, ~~[illegible]~~ is with the poor blacks. All theories of reconstruction & reformation, which do not assign as the controlling element, Evangelical religion, it seems to me, must prove a failure. I have no doubt you feel the same. I hope, dear Sir, you may under God prove the instrument of great good to these poor people. You may count on my services in any way for this object. Yours &c J. B. Waterbury

May 19th 1865.
Brooklynn N. Y.

Waterbury, J. B.
Rev.

Congratulates Gen. Howard
states that he has wr[illegible]
several books for the
benefit of the freedme[illegible]

May 21st 1865 Recd. Wash

U. S. Christian Commission,

11 Bank Street,

PHILADELPHIA.

GEO. H. STUART, Chairman.
JOS. PATTERSON, Treasurer.

Rev. LEMUEL MOSS, Home Secretary.
Rev. E. P. SMITH, Field Secretary.

May 19 1865

General Howard,
Dear Sir,

It has occurred to me that an experience of three years in organizing the field work and directing the labors of others might be turned to account in some part of the large work on your hands.

Mr Stuart Chairman of the Commission & Mr. Demond of Boston propose to call upon you next week.

They have known all my army work & can say better than I what kind & amount of responsibility, if any, you could entrust to me.

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I am
Very truly
Yr Obt Servt
Edwd P. Smith
Secy U.S.C.C.

Brig. Genl O O Howard
Chief Bu. of Freedmen

Philadelphia, May 19, 1865

Smith, C. F.
Field Insp. of U.S.C.C.

Enclosure —
See letter in
Mary 2 Feb. 1865

Recd Trash'n May 29, 1865.

Head-Quarters Army of the Tennessee,
Metropolitan Hotel
Washington D.C. May 19th 1865.

Dearest

I am ~~almost~~ afraid this letter will not reach you, but will try. If you start monday and make the connection in Boston you will be in Newport Tuesday morning and by sleeping straight through can get here Tuesday evening about 6 P.M. I had intended to meet you in Philadelphia, but the big review coming off Tuesday, Wednesday will prevent it. Our army will be reviewed Wednesday and I am

hoping you may be there to witness it. Major Whittlesey has not arrived yet but if possible he will meet you & Mrs Whittlesey in Philadelphia tuesday night.

I am very anxious to see you & the children. Many kisses to them & yourself,

My brothers & sisters love to you –

Lovingly your husband

Otis

P.S. If you should get through without my knowledge take a carriage to the Metropolitan.

Head Quarters 29th Maine Regt Infy. Dwights Divn
Mount Olivet Cemetery D.C. May 19 1865

General.

The papers announce your appointment as Commissioner of Freedmen's Bureau;- I do not know your duties nor your authority, but thinking it may be possible for you to benefit me I ask permission to visit and confer with you, provided you judge best.

I have long had a desire to help the Freedman, but having no knowledge of farming it does not look right to me to undertake any of the good works which I would if I had that knowledge, still I hope there is some work I can do.

If you are willing to see me a few moments in private, please signify when and where it shall be; but if it does not lie with you to assist me, the interview will be unnecessary. It is not for position or salary that I am asking, for I have a good position awaiting me now; It is hard though for me to believe that God has preserved me the past four years only to enable me to engage in any strictly worldly duty.

I am sir, Yours &c

John M. Gould.
Major 29th Me Vols.

Maj. Genl O. O. Howard.
Comr. Freedmen Bureau