
2526 5/17/1865 *From:* C.P. Kingsbury

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2466

Source: Bowdoin

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.
Post Office
Davenport, Iowa

Comdg Army of Tennessee,
Near Washington,
D.C.

[188, 189]

Rock Island Arsenal, Ill.
Post Office
Davenport, Iowa, 17th May, 1865.

My dear General:

The papers just received, announced that you have accepted the appointment of Chief of the "Freedman'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 minds of Him "who spoke as never man spoke," have been eminently verified: "Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake." You have reached the 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,

C.P. Kingsbury

Major General O.O. Howard,
Comdg Army of Tennessee,
Near Washington,
D.C.

2527 5/17/1865 *From:* Saml. F. Colt

To: Major General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2467

Source: Bowdoin

The General
Assembly's Eastern
Committee
For the Religious
Instruction of the
Freedmen
Pittsburgh Pa.

[122]

The General Assembly's Eastern Committee
For the Religious Instruction of the Freedmen
Philadelphia
Rev. W.P. Breed, Chairman
Rev. Saml. F. Colt, Secretary & Superintendent
William Main, Esq., Treasurer
Morris Patterson, Esq.
John McArthur, Esq.
Wilfred Hall, Esq.

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 it sessions through next week probably. Our Report on "the whole subject" and if 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

2528 5/17/1865

From: Geo H Gordon

To: Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2468

Head Quarters District
of Eastern Virginia,
Norfolk, Va.

Washington
DC

Source: Bowdoin

[116, 117]

Head Quarters District of Eastern Virginia,
Norfolk, Va., May 17 1865

My dear Howard

I congratulate you my dear fellow upon your past present 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 worth. He has just shown me your letter.

With the happiest memory of our past association and feelings of sincere friendship for yourself I am truly yr friend

Geo H Gordon

Maj Genl O O Howard
Washington
DC

2529 5/17/1865 *From:* L.A.Chase

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2469

43 Washington St.
Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[123]

Boston May 17 1865

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 Rev. E.B. Webb.

Very Respfy
L.A.Chase
43 Washington St.

[Written on the backside in another hand]

Boston, Mass

Chase, L.A.

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

Answered

Recd F.B.H. May 18th 1865

2530 5/17/1865 *From:* Silas Hawley

To: Major Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-2470

St. Paul, Minn

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[124, 125]

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 Freedman's Bureau. Nothing, in this line, could have given me more heartfelt 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 Gen'l 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 Freedman'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.

If it is not asking too much, please communicate your views and your poses.

Yours very truly,
Silas Hawley

[Written on the last page in another hand.]

St. Paul, Minn
May 17th 1865
Hawley, Silas
Recd May 27, 1865

2531 5/17/1865 *From:* C.W. Asmussen *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2471 Philadelphia Penna

Source: Bowdoin

[126, 127]

Philadelphia Penna
May 17, 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 took 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 obedt servt
C.W. Asmussen

[Written on the last page in a different hand.]

Philadelphia, May 17, 1865

Asmussen, C.W.

Lt. Col. & A.I.C. 20th Ill.

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

On my staff for long time as Insp & Chf of S. Energetic & <cap> officer

2532 5/17/1865

From: W.T. Sherman

To: Genl OO Howard

OOH-2472

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters, Military
Division of the
Mississippi,
In the Field,
Dumfries, Va.

Washington DC

[118, 119, 120, 121]

Headquarters, Military Division of the Mississippi,
In the Field, May 17 1865
Dumfries, Va. 9 PM

Genl OO Howard, Washington DC
Dear General

Your letter of May 12 enclosing General Orders, War Dept No 91 of May 12 [See Note] reached me here, on arrival at Camp about dark. Col Strong is camped just behind me. Logan about 2 miles back and the 15th Corps at Acquia Creek 8 m back. Copies of Order No 91, are begin made and will be send back to them.

I hardly know whether to congratulate you or not but of one thing you may rest assured, that you posses my entire confidence and I cannot imagine that matters, that may involve the future of four millions of souls, could be put in more charitable, or more conscientious hands. So far as man can do, I believe you will, but I fear you have Hercules' task. God has limited the power of man, and though in the kindness of your heart, you would alleviate all the ills of humanity, it is not in your power. Nor is it in your power to fulfil one tenth part of the expectations of those who formed the Bureau for the Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Estates. It is simply impracticable, yet you can and will do all the good one man may, and that is all you are called on as a man and Christian to do. And to that extent count on me as friend and fellow soldier for counsel & assistance. I believe the Negro is Free by act of <master> and by the Laws of War, now ratified by active Consent and Review. The demand for his labor, and his ability to acquire & work land will enable the Negro to work out that amount of Freedom & political consequence to which he is or may be entitled by National Right and the acquiescence of his fellow men (white). But if 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 fo politicians to work on. If that be attempted be aware a new and dangerous element, Prejudice, which right or wrong does exist and should be consulted. There is a strong prejudice of man, which over a whole country exist. The Negro is desired a vote in all the northern states, save two or three, and those 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 Negroes vote in the South any more than they can in the North without Revolution, and as we have just emerged from one 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 just 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 pint because I have realized in our Country that one class of man makes war, and leaves another to fight it out. I am tired of fighting and if the theorists of New England impose this new condition on us I dread the result.

The Country is now deeply in debt. The South is exhausted and can contribute little or nothing toward its payment no matter how soon the laws of taxation may be made, and the sale of her land & plantations will not receive one tenth part the money required to pay the troops that will be needed to enforce the laws and maintain possession to the purchasers.

I know the people of the South even 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 former slaves are free, and if allowed reasonable time, and are not harassed by confiscations and political complications will very soon adapt their

condition and interest to this new statue of facts. Many of them will sell or lease on easy terms parts 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 rest 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 Southern States in a condition antagonistic to the feelings and prejudices of their people. The result of which will be internal war, and the final extermination of the white or black <majority>.

But I confess I am not familiar with the laws of Congress which originated your Bureau and repeat my entire confidence in your power & exalted character.

As to Mr Stanton I expect nothing. My orders announcing to the Troops the terms of our convention (first) at Durmas Station was addressed to the troops & not to the world. Mrs Stantons official Bulletin published to the world conveyed false information, for it contained matters that he knew I did not possess, and he thereby initiated a public attack on my motives. But what reason did my "orders" give for his sanctioning and endorsing Hallecks orders to violate my truce, attack an enemy in the act of surrendering, when he knew Genl Grant was present. (Apr 27), and orders to my juniors to disobey my orders. I don't 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 Johnstons command, and could as easily have extended them on the <whole smith>. Stantons 8 Reasons 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 us liable for the Rebel debt, or in any manner recognize the Southern Confederacy any more than the Dix-Hill Cartel, or any of the many "terms" <both into> made between Army Commanders.

But I will not bother you with such matters. Stantons & Hallecks conduct to me was an insult public & private and I shall present it as such when I choose.

We will all be near Alexandria on Friday and I know you will call to see us. Don't let the foul airs of Washington poison your thought towards your old comrades in arms.

Truly your friend,
W.T. Sherman
Maj. Genl

[Note: General Orders, No. 91 War Dept., Adj. General's Office, Washington, May 12, 1865.
Order organizing the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.

I. By direction of the President, Major General O. O. Howard is assigned to duty in the War Department as Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, under the Act of Congress entitled "An Act to establish a Bureau for the relief of Freedmen and Refugees," to perform the duties and exercise all the rights, authority, and jurisdiction vested by the Act of Congress in such Commissioner. General Howard will enter at once upon the duties of Commissioner specified in said Act.

II. The Quartermaster-General will, without delay, assign and furnish suitable quarters and apartments for the said bureau.

III. The Adjutant-General will assign to the said bureau the number of competent clerks authorized by the act of Congress.

By order of the President of the United States:

E.D. Townsend,
Assistant Adjutant-General.]

2533 5/18/1865

From: J. D. Webster

To: Maj. Gen Howard

OOH-2473

Source: Bowdoin

The United States
Sanitary Commission,
Office, 244 F Street,
Washington, D.C.

[128]

The United States Sanitary Commission,
Office, 244 F Street,
Washington, D.C. 18 May 1865.

Dear General,

This will be 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 respfy yrs
J. D. Webster

Maj. Gen Howard.

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]

Washington, D.C.

May 18, 1865

Webster, J.D.

Friendly Letter

Recd. B of F & R May 1865

2534 5/18/1865 *From:* Anna C. Park

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2474

Bennington Vt.

Source: Bowdoin

[129, 130]

Bennington Vt. 18th May, 1865

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 confreres 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 "reat Captain of our Salvation" whose 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

[Written on the last page in a different hand]

Bennington, Vt. 18 May 1865

Park, Miss Anna C.

Asks for the General's Autograph

Recd Wash'n May 27 1865

2535 5/18/1865

From: James B. Bradwell

To: Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2475

Source: Bowdoin

North-western Fair of
the
Sanitary Commission
and Soldiers' Home,
Rooms, 66 Madison
Street.
Chicago, Ill.

[131]

North-western Fair of the
Sanitary Commission and Soldiers' Home,
Rooms, 66 Madison Street.
Chicago, Ill. May 18, 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 documents, 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.

[Written on the back side in another hand]
Chicago, Ills.
May 18, 1865
Bradwell, James B
Chairman N.W. Fair of Sanitary Commission
Asking Autographic letter for Sanitary Fair
Recd Bureau F.R. & A.L. May 27 '65

2536 5/19/1865

From: J.R. Waterbury

To: Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2476

Brooklyn and Long
Island Christian
Commission

Source: Bowdoin

[133, 134]

Brooklyn and Long Island 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 sort 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 must be in behalf of the Freedmen. The "Counsels &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 jargon, 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 sought to make the Books also Christian & practical.

Our great work, 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 plan the instrument of great good to these poor people. You may command my services in any way for this object.

Yours
J.R. Waterbury

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

[Written on the back side in a different hand.]

May 18th 1865

Brooklyn N.Y.

Waterbury, J.B. Rev.

Congratulates Gen. Howard. States that he has written several books for the benefit of the Freedmen.

May 21st 1865 Recd. Wash'n.

2537 5/19/1865 *From:* Edw P. Smith

To: Brig. Genl. OO Howard

OOH-2477

Source: Bowdoin

U.S. Christian
Commission
11 Bank Street,
Philadelphia

[135, 136]

U.S. Christian Commission
11 Bank Street,
Philadelphia
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. Demand 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.

I am Very truly
Yr Obt Servt
Edw P. Smith
Sec'y U.S.C.C.

Brig. Genl. OO Howard
Chief of Bur. Of Freedmen

[Written on the back page in another hand.]
Philadelphia, May 19, 1865
Smith, E.P.
Field Secy of U.S.C.C.
Recd Wash'n May 29, 1865.
Answered
See letter in book dated May 27th

2538 5/19/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2478

Source: Bowdoin

Head-Quarters Army of
the Tennessee,
Metropolitan Hotel
Washington D.C.

[599]

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

Dearest

I am afraid this letter will not reach you, but will try. If you start Monday and make the connection in Boston you will be in New York Tuesday morning and by keeping straight through can get here Tuesday evening about 9 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 here 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.

May God bless & keep you.

Lovingly yr husband
Otis

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

2539 5/19/1865

From: John McGould

To: Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2479

Source: Bowdoin

Head Quarters 29th
Maine Reg't Infy.
Dwights Div'n.
Mount Olivet Cemetery
D.C.

Comr. Freedmen Bureau

[132]

Head Quarters 29th Maine Reg't Infy. Dwights Div'n.
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 my strictly worldly duty.

I am sir, Yours &c
John McGould
Major 29th Me Vols

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