

---

2654 6/20/1865    *From:* Rowland [RB  
Howard]

*To:* My dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2596

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[183]

Boston June 20 / 65

My dear Brother

I was glad to get your note & the enclosed "orders" giving me some idea of your work. I will remain here till next Monday & then return to Maine hoping to meet Ella in Portland where our State Conference is to be next week. I hope you will have a very good time at Gettysburg and not get sick under your great pressure of work.

I hope you will be home about Commencement time as Dellie will be here then. John Sewall says your class holds its 15th Anniversary this year. Dr Chickering wants you to preside at a Convention to promote Temperance at Saratoga some time & pressed me to write you about it. I am enjoying this great meeting of earnest Christian men very much & wish you could sit quietly and take in their thoughts with me.

Mr. J. L. Schick will be most happy to see you at Gettysburg.

May God help you day by day to do wisely & righteously all he lays upon you.

Your aff. Brother  
Rowland

P.S. Frank sends a great deal of love and is most happy to supply you with the articles you mention. He had forgotten them & feels glad that they are useful.

---

2655 6/20/1865     *From:* TS. Goodwin

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2597

Port Richmond, Staten  
Island N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[107, 108, 109]

Port Richmond, Staten Island N.Y.  
June 20th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Ex. Gov. Coburn of Maine is a friend of mine. I have repeatedly seen and heard you at Skowhegan. This is now my permanent residence. I formerly caried on a plantation with slaves in the south. A volume mailed herewith to your address will attest my position.

I write simply to call your attention to an article in the "Macon Telegraph" of May 30th reprinted in the New York Times semi-weekly, June 13th 65. If I have not lost my former acquaintance with southern idioms, it discloses a plan susceptible of immediate and universal application, characterized by all that infernal sagacity for which the "master class" are proverbial, for the practical reënslavement of the blacks, and the practical restoration of the old order of things.

The premises occupied are two. First, the making and administration of local law will soon be back in southern lands. Second - "The theory of Republican democracy, is nonintervention with trade, labor and domestic economy +++ It keeps out of the kitchen and the meal-tub+++."

The principle to be put in action on these premises is that by which "apprentises" and coolies are fatally and immediately enslaved in the West Indies -viz:- piling up charges for food and clothing and medical attendance, which charges, under the master's administration of law, their victims can liquidate to the tenth generation.

To meet this plot I would suggest that every five hundred or thousand negro families, being registered, have a government supervisor whose expences and salary should be payed by a pittence from the earnings of each family, who should have from the War Department, power to annull all oppressive contracts and exorbitant charges. The negroes would fall into this arrangement spontaneously. Their would-be masters will fight against it with all the sagacity and force to be waked up this side of Perdition.

But one word more. Unless by confiscation or some other process, the large landed estates in the south are broken up and made attainable by the actual cultivation of the soil, the Despotism that has ruled that section with a rod of iron in the past, will be measurably restored.

Yours respectfully  
TS. Goodwin

[Written on the back page, in another hand.]  
Goodwin T.S.

To be answered when the book referred to has been read. [Perhaps "The Natural History of Secession"]  
Rec'd Bureau of RF&AL June 21, 65

---

2658 6/21/1865

*From:* O.O. Howard

*To:* My dear Guy [Howard]

OOH-2598

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Washington D.C.

---

[609]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington D.C. June 21st 1865

My dear Guy,

Your kind letter and present came in good time and I am grandly wearing the cravat. Sam and I both understand the process exactly of putting it on. Tell Mamma I am not quite so hard pressed with business as I was when she was here, that I find the house very cool this hot weather; the repairers are white washing and painting and I am having the gas pipe in my room mended. We have a good cow and I am having the hay made so as to put it in the barn. The ground looks neater since it was mowed. My oration is written for Gettysburg but I am afraid I shall not get it committed. Give much love to Mamma & all the children.

May God bless & keep you all is papa's prayer.

Affectionately  
O.O. Howard

---

2659 6/21/1865 *From:* H Wilson

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2599

Natick

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[153]

Natick, June, 21st, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

Major Thomas H. Dunham of the 11th Regt Ms [Massachusetts] desires a position in your Bureau. He is represented to me to be a good officer in all respects worthy of entire confidence.

Yours truly  
H Wilson

---

2656 6/20/1865     *From:* Wm E Shord

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2600

Racine Wisconsin

Comr Bureau of Refugees  
etc.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[110, 111]

June 21, [1865 written in pencil]

Dear Genl,

I arrived at home safely yesterday evening. Will be in Racine until the latter part of this week when I leave on my inspection tour via St. Louis.

The weather is delightful and I am having a good time among my friends.

Please say to Mrs H that I left the Colonel in Chicago and that he was well and in excellent spirits. Thought he should be in Washington in ten days.

I met Genl. Sherman and lady at the Tremont House in Chicago, and had a pleasant visit with them. The Genl is well and wished to be remembered to you when I wrote, said he should write to you soon.

I am fearful that Genl S. is injuring his reputation by the course he has pursued since coming west. He has written and said too much already, and he is becoming very unpopular on account of his associations with a class of politicians in Chicago who have ever been bitterly opposed to the administration.

Genl. Sherman told me that it was very probable that the Veteran troops of 14th 15th and 17th Corps would be mustered out at the service soon. If my regiment should be mustered out of service before I get back to Washington, could you not in some way manage to have me retained in the service for a time? I would like very much to remain in the army until I can make arrangements about going into business –that is if you think I can be of any service to you and worthy of it.

I talked with Genl. Rawlins about it the day I left <vt> and he said Genl. Grant would attend to the matter without any doubt, if you desired it.

I will write you fully from St. Louis and all points along the Miss.

Remember me kindly to Mrs Markland & all members of the staff.

I have the honor to be  
Very Respectfully and truly yours  
Wm E Shord  
Insp. Genl. etc.

Racine Wisconsin  
June 20th 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau of Refugees etc.

---

2660 6/21/1865     *From:* Mrs Bethune

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2601

1629 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and Abandoned  
Lands

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[114]

Major General Howard  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands

Mrs Bethune acknowledges receipt of Permit and begs leave to return her thanks to General Howard for his prompt and kind attention to her application; at the same time she desires to call his attention to the omission of permission, for her Daughter, Josephine Bethune aged about Fifteen, to accompany her.

On applying to Colonel McKim, Mrs Bethune was referred to Captain Bowman, who did not feel authorized to make any addition to the Permit for Transportation; and recommended Mrs B. to renew her application, including her Daughter.

The advanced Season renders it dangerous for Absentees to return to Florida, and Mrs. Bethune prays that the indulgence of Transportation may be extended to her until the June heat will have abated.

Mrs. Bethune offers her expression of regret for repeated intrusion, and reiterates her thanks for acquiescence to her wishes.

June 21st 1865  
1629 Spruce Street  
Philadelphia

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

Phila. Pa.

Bethune Mrs.

Requests to have transportation given her daughter be extended until the warm season is over.

Ans.

Rec'd B of RF&AL June 22

---

2661 6/21/1865 *From:* J. G. Blaine

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2602

Augusta

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[112, 113]

Private –Excuse haste and blots

Augusta  
21 Jun 1865

Dear Genl

If you have any unfilled place connected with your Bureau requiring a man of brains and great practical resources let me say that you will find him in Bvt Brig Genl Alexander Cummings now Com of Camp Cadwallader near Phila.

You can find out all about him by inquiring of the Secy of War or Gen. Townsend.

I drop you this hint for your official benefit but I do not want you to act on it without consulting others. I merely feel interested in you securing capable assistants in your great work.

You need not quote me to any one as making the recommendation –for I want you to get your <> information from other quarters if you conclude to call for Gen. Cummings. I do not pretend to know whether he would be willing to accept a post in your Bureau. I merely direct yr attention to him as a man of great ability, and rare capacity for administrative duty.

In great haste  
Always yr friend  
J. G. Blaine

Maj. Gen. Howard

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

Augusta June 21st 1865

Blaine, J.G.

Mem. C.

Recommends Gen Cummings as an officer well fitted for some position in the Bureau.

Recd June 25, 1865, Wash'n.

---

2662 6/21/1865     *From:* Henry T. Johns

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2603

Pittsfield, Berkshire Co.  
Mass.

Chief of Freedman's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[116, 117]

Pittsfield, Berkshire Co. Mass.  
June 21, 1865

General,

I am 37 yrs of age – have wife and three children – was born and reared among the Quakers of Philadelphia –admitted to the bar (Rochester N.Y.) Sept. 1850 – entered the ministry (N.E. Church) June 1852 – enlisted into the 49th Regt Mass. Vols. August 1862 – mustered out with the reg't Sep. 1, 1862 – (it was a nine months regiment, but the exigencies of the siege of Port Hudson made it a one-year's reg't) – re-enlisted into the 61st Mass. vols. as private and was duly promoted to 2nd & 1st Lieut. respectively – mustered out with the same, June 4, 1865 in pursuance of Gen. Or. No. 26 Hd Qrs A. of P. dated May 17, 1865.

I have the honor to apply to you for a place in the work over which you have command. I do it reluctantly. My Anti-Slavery convictions led me into the army. In the 49th Mass. Vols. I was Q. M's clerk, a position which honorably exonerated me from the dangers of the field, but those convictions led me to take part in every forlorn hope, battle and skirmish, in which my comrades engaged. The war over, I hoped to remain with, and train up my little ones. If you can give me a position that will enable me to be with my family and that will comfortably support us, duty will lead to a prompt acceptance thereof. If you give me only the duties of which will require my separation from my family –I will know not what to do. I have been much troubled on the subject. The future of the freedmen and the future of our country awakens much of my anxiety. I feel that I could be useful in your department. I dont want to leave my family, am doubtful if I ought to. Thus troubled, I have determined to lay that matter before you, almost concluding to consider your decision as the voice of Providence to me.

I would prefer to serve as a civillian, for duty, never inclination, transformed me into the private, the officer. As the latter, I was mainly engaged as Judge-Advocate, but was privileged to be with my reg't (61st Mass. Vols.) before Petersburg, April 2, 1865, in the one battle of their history. For the services of that day, I was recommended for Brevet promotion. That recommendation passed through Brigade Hd Qrs. I have heard nothing of it since.

If I could get a position in Kentucky, Tennessee or Missouri, I should seriously think of settling there. Climate would better suit my health. Civil and military recommendations, of the very best, I can furnish you. I know I am a good business man and my friends give me credit for executive energy. Excuse the apparent egotism –it is but apparent. I enclose pamphlet, not <> a specimen of my mind, but that you may know me better, and know that I am not now assuming views that I might reasonably presume to harmonize with those of the Chief of the Freedman's Bureau.

Hoping to receive an early reply. I remain  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Henry T. Johns  
Late 1st Lieut 51st Mass. Vols

Major General O.O. Howard  
Chief of Freedman's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Pittsfield, Mass.  
June 21, /65  
Johns H.F.  
Desires an appointment



-a-

Recd B of RF&AL 23rd June

---

2663 6/21/1865    *From:* John C. Caldwell  
Brig. Gen.

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2604

Washington D.C.

Commissioner of Freedman's  
Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[118, 119]

Washington D.C.  
June 21 1865

My dear General:

Permit me to introduce to you my friend Col Stewart who, as the agent of Jay Cooke, has recently been in the Southern States.

He has taken great interest in the condition of the Freedmen in the States he has visited, & can, I doubt not give you valuable information.

I have taken great interest in his statements, from the fact that Col. Stewart has been a slaveholder & has lived all his life amidst the institution of slavery, & cannot, therefore, be considered a witness prejudiced in favor of the negro.

The Colonel is a lawyer by profession, has been in the Maryland Legislature, & was a member of the Convention which framed the Constitution of California.

I have been surprised & gratified by the accounts he gives of the conduct & capacity of the negro.

I am, General  
Very truly Yours  
John C. Caldwell  
Brig. Gen.

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Freedman's Bureau

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

Washington  
June 21, 1865  
Caldwell, J.C.  
Brig. Genl.  
Introduces Col. Stewart  
A.  
Recd June 22, 1865

---

2664 6/21/1865    *From:* W. E. Boardman

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-2605

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office,  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia

Commissioner &c

---

[120]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office,  
11 Bank Street  
Philadelphia, June 21, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General,

I have seen a few of the leading men interested for Freedmen and others south. Not enough to decide the question of a union of all. Enough however to confirm my faith in the practicality of effecting it. All think highly of it. None as yet see insurmountable obstacles in the way.

Yesterday I was seized by slight illness and enjoined by my physician to keep entirely quiet at home for a short time. This stops me, but I hope very soon to have the Dr's assent to a trip to New York and if need be to Boston, which must I think decide the feasibility of our plan.

May God bless you and give you health strength wisdom and grace for the great work before you.

Very respectfully and truly yours  
W. E. Boardman

P.S. My address for the present is 425 South Broad Street.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila June 21

11 Bank St.

Boardman W.E.

Secy Chris'n Comm.

Thinks a union of commissions can be effected.

Recd Bureau of RF&AL June 22nd

---

2665 6/21/1865 *From:* H. Wilson

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2606

Natick

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[121]

Natick, June 21st, 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I am told that Mr James has or will recommend the Rev Mr Fisk now at Morehead city as head of the Schools in North Carolina. I write to say that Mr Fisk had one of the best schools for boys in this state and is regarded as a most able teacher. I have known him for many years and know him to be a good and true man.

Yours truly  
H. Wilson

---

2666 6/22/1865

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
M Genl

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2607

*Source:* Bowdoin

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands.  
St. Louis

Freedman's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

---

[130, 131]

War Department  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands.  
St. Louis June 22d, 1865

General

I have the honor to report my military affairs in Missouri closed and off my hands.

I shall give a brief look at Freedmen's affairs in Louisville and reach Nashville on Monday 26th inst.

I am pained to hear of the accident to Col. Osborne. If it meets your pleasure I will undertake Alabama in connection with Ky and Tenn until the Colonel recovers from his injuries.

I congratulate you upon the L.L.D.

Very Respectively  
Your Obt Servant  
Clinton B. Fisk  
M Genl

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Freedman's Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

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

St Louis Mo.  
22 June  
Fisk Gen C. B.  
Friendly letter  
Recd B of RF&AL 25 Jun 65

[Attachment, newspaper clipping from The Democrat]

The Democrat  
Thursday Morning, June 22, 1865  
Correction – The Degree of LL.D. Conferred upon Major General Howard.

By a typographical error, our correspondent from Shurtleff College was made to say in our issue of the 20th inst., the degree of D.D. was conferred upon Rev. G.S. Bailey, of Ill., and Major General Sam. Graves, of Conn. The degree of LL.D. was conferred upon Oliver Howard.

Sam. Graves is a clergyman, and pastor of a Baptist church at Norwich, Conn. The Major General who has thus received the highest honor in the gift of one of the best of American colleges, is Oliver O. Howard, Commissioner of the Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Lands. It is rare indeed that honors of this kind are more worthily bestowed. Gen. Howard was graduated first from Bowdoin College and afterward from the military academy at West Point. He was for some time instructor in mathematics at West Point, at which time he also prosecuted a liberal course of study in sacred theology. In literature, science, christian theology, and the art of war, Gen. Howard, though yet young, stands among the first of public men of our nation. Shurtleff College has honored itself in placing the laurel upon the head of Oliver O. Howard.

---

2667 6/22/1865 *From:* Thomas Wingate

*To:* Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2609

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[126]

Philadelphia June 22nd 1865

Sir,

I have just received your letter of June 21st 1865, enclosing an order for passage for me my wife and brother from Philadelphia to Georgetown South Carolina. We are a thousand times obliged to you for your kindness and assure you that we will always remain faithful to the old flag and loyal to our country.

With respect  
yours &c  
Thomas Wingate

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]

Phila Pa

June 22d /61

homes Thos

Letter of thanks.

Recd B of RF&AL 23rd June

---

2668 6/22/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

*To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2610

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[611]

Washington D.C. June 22nd 1865

Dearest,

Your welcome letter of the 18th I have just received. It is so cool and pleasant here now, that I wonder whether it will last. Col. Markland has'nt returned & Mrs M. is quite lonely & looks for letters with much solicitude. I wonder if you are ever worried because you do not get letters? I will enclose you Susan's letter.

My duties are not very hard, but require attending to. Harry Stinson has gone up to Loudon Co. Va. I am afraid he is not strong, coughs much at night, never complains, wants to do much work as much as any body. Sladen is a little unwell today, had a little fever. Gilbreth, Fullerton & Taggart are all well.

We have a very pleasant mess and I really wish you & the children were here to enjoy it. I want the children to play with out of hours.

I think the ladies of Washington do just as they please, visit just as much & just as little as they like.

I had a telegram from Col. Whittlesey to-day from Raleigh, a letter from Rowland from Boston another from Dellie from Richmond Ind. Also letters from Uncle Henry & Freddie.

I am giving you an after dinner letter, that is writing without much thought or order. I sent Guy a short answer to his letter and my photograph.

I had a long friendly from Moses H. Wright cadet when you knew him. Now Rebel Col. paroled. He accepts the present state of things as the Divine <Arbitration> and writes me affectionately, wants to know what will be done with him, has an excellent wife & lovely child, sends kind remembrances to you.

Col. Osborne met with a severe R.R. accident, cars tipped over breaking his arm off near the shoulder after he had started back from a short leave of absence. I am very sorry for him. You know he broke his leg just above the ankle on a Government R.R. train between Atlanta & Nashville when he was on his way home on a leave of absence. Dont he have bad luck! I wrote him he must give his heart wholly to his master.

I suppose Guy & Grace are anticipating their trip to Washington with much pleasure. I want to see them all very much & I believe little Chancy as much as any. Give much love and accept not a little from your loving husband

Otis





---

2670 6/22/1865 *From:* Sarah F. Smiley

*To:* Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2612

Norfolk

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[127, 128, 129]

Norfolk 6.22.1865

To Genl. O.O. Howard -

Thy kindness in our brief interview in this city encourages me in asking thy attention to a subject that had claimed my most earnest thoughts for many months past – the separated families of Freedmen.

Their strong national affection is no more figment of northern sympathy. In my missionary labors among them I have seen such deep and lasting sorrow from these forced partings as cause them to be generally spoken of as the one great trial of life; and most intense happiness I have witnessed too in the many reunions affected since the fall of Richmond.

Each Sabbath little papers of touching interest are read in their Churches inquiring for the lost, but this resource is in most cases hopeless.

Such a work to be thorough must be national, and wold it not seem the plain duty of our Country in putting away the sin of slavery to find a remedy for one of its practical wrongs. I have waited anxiously for the right time to move, and have watched with thankful heart the opening doors, in the recovery of the entire Slave territory, the establishment of the new Bureau, the appointment of a Christian as its head – and now the census of the race which I am told is on the point of being taken. The latter fact removes an obstacle which has almost appalled me as I have pondered various plans by night and day, the enormous expense of the undertaking, to which I feared neither our Government nor the various Associations would respond. It may be that this subject has already claimed the attention of the Bureau, but shall I suggest the plan that has occurred to me? The Census Agents might be required to insert in their Books – (or separate Books would be better) the following items -

- 1 Former owners in order of time
- 2 Residence of each of these owners
- 3 Names of Parents or Children (if separated)
- 4 Name of wife or husband (do)
- 5 Their owners and residence at time of sale
- 6 Approximate date of separation

<6> would be a very great help but that I know from experience to be usually so inaccurate as only to mislead. The <listings> of the owners names – the chief clue – could be prepared, one for each state so that there would be a Virginia Book, a Georgia Book etc. This would save an enormous amount of labor in searching the whole.

I have just been consulting with my friend Major Carney (for some time the Gen. Supt. of Negro Affairs in this state) and while I have been writing this he has sent me a more elaborate form which I will enclose. The Returns once in the Office, official notice of readiness for applications could be spread through the Country and simple Blanks could be furnished to all Agents. Teachers &c for the use of those asking information – and calling for all the information on record of both parties. These blanks with any additional clue that could be found should be sent to the office and thence to the neighborhood where the other party is traced for identification and the answers transmitted through the office to the first enquirer.

Allowing for many failures if a few thousand could thus be reunited or put in communication by letter would not the effort be amply rewarded.

No doubt there are difficulties in the work; but surely a special blessing might be expected to crown with success such an act of justice & mercy. Many prayers have already asked for such a blessing and now with full confidence in thy judgment & Christian sympathy. I commend to thy thought and care, this past sorrow of the Slave.

All that I can offer, whether time or strength, my little influence with those who have more influence, or whatever

else I may possess is solemnly pledged to this work.

Very truly thy frd  
Sarah F. Smiley

Genl. O.O. Howard



---

**2672** 6/23/1865    *From:* J. R. Shepherd

*To:* Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2614

Care Geo Whipple  
61 John St  
New York

Freedmens Bu  
Washington

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[42]

The American Telegraph Company  
Printing and Morse Lines

Dated N York June 23 1865  
Rec'd Washington June 23 1865  
To Maj. Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmens Bu

Can I see you at your office tomorrow. Answer

J. R. Shepherd  
Care Geo Whipple  
61 John St

9/75

New Your June 23 1865  
Shepard, J.R.  
Desires to see Gen Howard  
File with private papers  
Rec'd Bureau F.R.&A.L. June 23d / 65 at 10:20 am

---

2673 6/23/1865      *From:* J.T. Headley

*To:* Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2615

Cedar Lawn  
Newburgh

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[122, 123, 124]

Cedar Lawn  
Newburgh Jun 23 [1865, written in pencil]

Dear Sir

I am engaged in writing a book on the campaign of Grant & Sherman & shall include in it (as is to be large) biographies of their chief generals, their battles, &c. [See Note]

My object in addressing you is two fold.

First I desire a chronological statement of the battles you were engaged in after that of Antietam together with the kind of service you performed – also the exact date of your appointment as Major General. Up to Antietam I think I have every thing necessary. If any of your personal friends or subordinates have presented incidents anecdotes &c I should be extremely thankful if you would give me their address. But the second & main object I have in view is a matter of more total interest. It is well known that you serve a higher master than an earthly one & I feel that I have no right to give your service under one without giving that under the other.

Besides, the church, christianity have a right to it - the glory of our common Master requires it. The written accounts of Havelock & Hedley Vicars have done more for the world than their actions did.

What I want I am afraid nobody can give but yourself & I am the more late in asking it because I do not wish it for my benefit nor for yours but for Christianity – i.e. a history of your religious relations to the soldier & the army from the time you prayed with your Maine Regiment to the close of the war I know at the first blush there seems some indelicacy in this, but when we remember that even the private <secret desires> of God's people have been published to the world & form the <> to the church, we see they can be done. Whatever good we do is not of us but "Christ that dwelleth in us" & he & his church have a right to ask that the world should hear our testimony. You may think that I overrate the importance of this but I know that I do not. What might be said of me, writing in the ordinary <contine> of life would be of small account but the outward practical testimony of one who ranks among the first military chieftains –who has done more than face death without flinching – faced steadily the temptations of a camp life & the immorality of an army is invaluable. I have thought much of it & feel that even I worthless as I am could do some good by making a Christian hero stand out in bold relief in a group of mere military chieftains. Acts of fidelity to our common Master – that glorying in the cross, without which a religious life in the army is impossible, have a power over the consciences & hearts of men that we little dream of. In the ignorant private they may be called fanaticism but not in the great & well poised leader of an army. Besides the very events with which they are put in juxtaposition, give them a prominence & strong relief they otherwise would not possess. Across the gloom & carnage of war they shoot like sunbursts through the cloud rifts that blacken the stormy deep.

I dont know as I have made myself thoroughly understood. I dont know as the motive that truly actuates me stand out clearly or it ought to in what I have said. But to sum up the whole I want to do good with your biography, not merely write a thrilling military sketch & I believe good will be done if you can in any way give me, or put me in the way of getting a full account of your public testimony while in the army to the truth of Christianity.

As I said before I am the more bold in asking it because I feel that the Church & Christianity have a right to it as much as they had to that of Havelock & Vicars.

Please think of it, for I feel quite sure if you look at the matter in all its bearings you will view it somewhat as I do.

I know how your time is occupied, but perhaps you could put me in the way of getting what I want without encroaching very heavily upon it.

At all events pardon me for trespassing so much on your patience & believe me

Most truly & <nisculy> yours  
J.T. Headley

[Note. The book referred to here is probably the one entitled "Grant and Sherman. Their Campaigns and Generals", published in 1865 by E.B. Treat & Co., New York and written by Joel Tyler Headley.]

---

2674 6/23/1865 *From:* S. L. Smiley

*To:* [OO Howard]

OOH-2616

Norfolk, Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[134, 135, 136, 137]

Norfolk, Va  
6-23-1865

It gives me much pleasure to forward this little package to Gen. Howard and to add some little explanations which may increase its interest.

The Pen-wipers were made by Harriet Whitehouse a young woman and a cripple who suffers a living martyrdom from the inhuman treatment she received from her master when a child. One of my young friends has taught her to make these little articles, and she has employed the intervals of pain so well as to earn in this manner about \$10 in four months.

The Photographic group I have had taken expressly for Gen Howard and his little son –for whom I am sorry I can find at present no more appropriate gift. The five persons in the group were related from the woman under my charge this winter in my Industrial School and Mothers Meeting –as types of different classes.

The first one standing is the daughter of a man who after praying for freedom for 40 long years has nicely improved the gift. He is the head of quite a settlement of children and grandchildren –has built his own home, made improvements in this & others, and aided in the support of all through the expenses of sickness and death, with an honest <> in never having cost a penny to that Government to which he owes so much. Three of his daughters have been with me in such moments as they could spare from their children and have thus earned \$20 with their needle and <> in its use.

The second figure with crutches is a lame girl whose christian cheerfulness knows no cloud. Walking as often as she could a long mile to the school, she is now (nearly) able to support herself with her needle –her little apprenticeship yielding has a profit of \$10. In her lap is a block of the Bed-Spread designed for our beloved President –now being finished for the benefit of his monument, and to be purchased by the subscription as a present to John Bright.

The woman with a turban is the mother of the little girl, and a soldiers wife. In his absence she has managed her household of five young children with rare discretion. All her fuel is brought by herself and elder children from the woods round Norfolk. Her hands wield the axe and her shoulders bear the heavy load, while the little ones can carry chips, and this with a most thankful heart. The little girl has been my little orderly taking round comforts to the sick and so earning her dresses, while at the School she has been busy with patchwork.

The last in the group is old Aunty Neaton one of the sweetest spirits I ever met. She is 80 years old, and has had a life of grinding toil. When I found her in her log hut with the <keen> winds blowing through the chinks, and said “Why Aunty isn't it very cold here?” - her cheerful answer was “I thank the Lord –the roof is pretty tight, honey.” And such is her life –the Security of all that is above her and over her, more thought of than the trials around her. I had her home made comfortable and did not see her again till two months after she came walking in to the Hall. “I could'nt rest honey, till I found you again, but I was feared to come at first case my eyes couldnt see to sew, but they tells me theres stockings now and it pears like if I could jus come and sit near you and knit I'd be so mighty happy honey.” Treble pair of well knit socks has been the fruit of her labor –now <comes> in a nice new dress.

Such quiet facts speak louder than the contentious tongues which so often tell me - “hey will not work. I assure you they will not work.”

Gen. Howard may rest assured that the prayers of many of this new-born Nation whom it is his privilege to protect through this perilous infancy of freedom, will follow him and call down a blessing upon his work, and also I think upon himself, and such is the earnest desire of

his friend,

S. L. Smiley

I am sorry to find that the Photographs are not quite ready as promised. I will send them on by mail. Very truly  
-S. L. S.



---

2675 6/23/1865 *From:* John Dessauer

*To:* Major Genl. O.O.  
Howard U.S.Vols.  
Washington, D.C.

OOH-2617

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters  
Department of  
Washington,  
Office of Judge  
Advocate

---

[138]

Headquarters Department of Washington,  
Office of Judge Advocate  
June 23rd 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard U.S.Vols.  
Washington, D.C.  
General,

I most respectfully request you, General, for permission to pay you my regards and respect in person; as I had not yet the honor to make your acquaintance, but I have always esteemed you though as the benefactor of my deceased brother, Captain Frances A. Dessauer, of your Staff.

I have the honor, to be, General,  
Most Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
John Dessauer  
late Captain 39th N.Y. V Vols. and  
Asst Judge Advocate 44th AC

"Address" Captain John Dessauer  
care of  
Major Th. Gaines Judge Advocate  
Dept. Of Washington  
Washington  
D.C.

[Written on the back page, written in a different hand.]  
Department of Washington  
June 23d 1865  
Dessauer John  
Friendly Letter  
&c  
Recd June 28, 1865

---

2676 6/23/1865

*From:* Thomasine M.  
Kearny

*To:* My Dear Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2618

No. 136 Amity St.  
Brooklyn

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[139]

No. 136 Amity St. Brooklyn  
Friday Morning, June 23d 1865

My Dear Friend,

Again in addressing you I take the liberty of introducing my eldest Brother, who explains in this accompanying letter his desire for your attention. When I wrote you before, I had no expectation of troubling you again, but trust to your expressed kind feeling to excuse the liberty I now take.

My Brother is a man about your own age, and thoroughly principled. If in your power to grant me this favor, I shall ever feel very grateful.

I learn thro' Mrs. Sargent that Mrs. Howard is with you give much love to her for me, and with warmest regards for yourself. Believe me dear General

Yours sincerely  
Thomasine M. Kearny

P.S. I think I should add, that I have no intention of presuming again upon your friendship, and thank you most kindly for the reception of my former note.  
T.M.K.