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2716 7/9/1865

*From:* Wm Scott Downey

*To:* Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2660

New York City, No.  
202, 6th Ave.

Freed men's Bureau,  
Washington City, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[210, 211]

Private

New York City, No. 202, 6th Ave., July 9th 1865

Genl. Howard  
Freed men's Bureau,  
Washington City, D.C.  
General:

Report leads me to believe that your highest ambition is to do good. I am, therefore, gratified to find it in my power to congratulate you in your appointment by the president, to the Important and highly responsible office of Chief of the Freedmen's Bureau.

God in His wisdom has placed us so that we are dependent one upon another. It is in my power to serve you, if you permit me. to be definite, I beg leave to acquaint you that I have labored indefatigably in the West Indies, as a minister of Christ for many years I have there witnessed negro Slavery –an apprenticeship of 4 years served by the negroes to their former masters; which was really more cruel than slavery; and, praised be the Lord most High, I was spared to behold the result of Emancipation.

You are, doubtless, aware that in 1834 Her majesty's "Benevolent Government" emancipated 900,000 negroes in the British W.I., at a cost of twenty millions sterling, or about \$100,000,000 The negro was free, and, as no man is willing to starve, he was forced to labor for his bread, while his former owner must either pay the freedman adequately for his services, or do the work himself. My duties increased seven fold, in as much as I had to attend to preaching Sabbath schools, evening adult schools, Day schools, and visiting twice every week the different sugar and coffee plantations I attended at the latter places to effect a conciliation between the freed man and his late master, Please understand that I then lived and labored in the vicinity of a dense peasant, or negro population.

I discovered soon after emancipation, that there existed no christian feeling between the employer and employed, the negro ever looked at his former owner with the eye of suspicion, whom he considered unwilling to remunerate him for his labors. The white man on his part, was ever ready to portray the negro "lazy and dishonest." I have known many negroes to go away miles off from their old homes to labor for strangers, always telling me "old massa been so long used to get work done free of charge that now we are free he wont pay, and when he does he cheats us of half our due". In may cases I found this report true. All the negro wanted was to occupy his cottage and garden and receive about 1.6 stg, or 37ct pr day. On some large sugar plantations they preferred "job-work." One received about 32 sterling or \$10.00 per month. I was at one time instructed by Sir Lionel Smith, then Captain Governor of Jamaica, to make a tour throughout the Colony, and to report faithfully on the lack of negro labor. I reported thus –The negroes were cunning and miserly. They hoarded their earnings, but, with few exceptions were willing to labor when regularly paid. Therefore there existed no want of labor where prompt payments were made.

The proprietary body, soon after Emancipation erroneously believed that they could do without negro labor, and raised a large sum for the Emigration scheme. Emigrants were brought out from Ireland and Germany to cultivate the chief staples of the Colony, namely Sugar, rum and Coffee; but, alas! this proved a gross failure; because Europeans could not bear the tropical sun and climate; again they drank freely of new Rum which "killed them off". To make things better Coolies were bro't out from Madras, Calcutta and Bombay; but I beg leave to tell you, most Solemnly, that fully 2/3 were mere Clots to the plantations. They could not perform half the work of an able bodied negro. You will find it to the advantage of the planters to adhere to their old laborers. Let them remember that "good masters make good servants." They must lay aside all invidious feelings, and give cheerfully a fair day's wages for a fair day's labor.

Please understand, Gen., that U.S. of America is my adopted country. I am in poor circumstances, but can be

of service in your department. I can tell you much more than I am willing to write, because no man of my age, 47 years, is better acquainted with the negro character. Will you allow me to labor in any part of your bureau? I have only a wife, an American, but no children. I am willing to earn my daily bread and can give satisfaction for any remuneration bestowed upon me –also proper references.

I may add that I have been often asked whether the negro Emancipation of Jamaica led to its impoverished state or not? I now reply –I think not. You are to understand that soon after the negroes were made free the British markets were thrown open to slave and foreign grown produce - therefore the free grown produce of the British Colonies could not compete with those of Cuba. Again the Navigation Laws compelled the planters of the British West Indies to ship their produce in British ships.

In enclose for your perusal two anecdotes or incidents of my Eventful life. Please peruse them, and deign to answer my letter at your earliest convenience.

With my whole heart, I wish you, and yours, the choicest blessings of Almighty God.

Respectfully,  
Wm Scott Downey,  
minister of X to Gospel  
Author of Proverbs, &c

P.S. I once owned a small coffee plantation but soon after Negro Emancipation I found myself too poor to pay the negroes adequately to labor and the negroes were too cunning to work for nothing, my land was sold by small portions to them, for ¼ its value. Please your answer.  
WSD

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2717 7/10/1865 *From:* David Wills

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2661

Gettysburg

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[215]

Gettysburg July 10th 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

My dear Sir,

On behalf of the Board of Managers of the Soldier's National Cemetery I am instructed to return to you the thanks of the Association for your eloquent Oration delivered at the laying of the corner stone of the Monument in the Cemetery July 4th and to solicit of you a copy for publication. I am directed to have all the proceedings published in pamphlet form and desire a correct copy of your Oration.

With high regards,

I remain Your Obedient Servant,

David Wills

President of

The Soldier's National Cemetery

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

Gettysburg, Pa.

July 10th 1865

Wills, David

Pres. Sol Nat Cemetery

Thanks Gen Howard for the 4th of July oration and requests a copy for publication.

Recd July 12 1865

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2718 7/10/1865

*From:* D.C. Haynes

*To:* Maj Gn. O O Howard

OOH-2662

National Freedman's  
Relief Association,  
New York

Bureau of Refugees &c

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[216]

National Freedman's Relief Association,  
New York, July 10th 1865.

Maj Gn. O O Howard  
Bureau of Refugees &c  
My Dear Sir,

Accept my thanks for your reply to my letter of inquiry as to a position in your Bureau.

If you need my services, will you permit me to suggest, that there are two ways in which the difficulty if no appropriation to pay employees can be overcome. I can wait for pay until the appropriations are made, and they must be made sooner or later. Or you could have me appointed Chaplain and detailed for your work. I hold a Commission from the Gov. of New York as Chaplain of the Brooklyn 13th and served as such with the Regiment for 3 months at Suffolk Va at the end of which time the Regiment was mustered out. Of course my commission is of no avail now except as it is proof of some experience.

I hope I was not annoying you, but I feel a deep interest in the work for the freed people and it is that chiefly which prompts me to seek the situation. I presume that the voluntary associations will become of less and less consequence as your Bureau takes its true place.

We had an ovation all over England. I say we –my son Foster at Oswego N.Y formerly 1st Leus Lt of the 4th Maine Battery. L.M.S Haynes was with me. There is no limit to the enthusiasm of some of the English people in behalf of the freedmen of America. Any amount of money can be raised there. My son formed twenty ladies societies in Paris and the best women in Paris as in England are now making up clothing I should have remained longer but for the death in my absence of my youngest son 2d Lt of the 4th Maine Battery who hardly got home to die.

I have a high appreciation of your work. Alas how much is to be done for the freed people and how little any of their friends even appreciate what will yet be necessary.

If you have occasion to write me again will you please say if you design to accept the invitation to the Temperance Meeting at Saratoga which Dr Marsh informs me you have received as I have been invited to speak at it and may be there if it is to be a success.

I have the honor to be &c  
D.C. Haynes

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
New York, July 10th 1865  
Haynes, D.C.  
Desires employment in the Bureau.  
Recd July 12, 1865.

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2719 7/10/1865      *From:* Henry B Carrington      *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-2663

Columbus, O.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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Unofficial

Columbus, O. July 10th 1865,

General,

I write you, though slightly acquainted, at the desire of several Clergymen of our church who have been actively engaged in the religious and social well being of Freedmen, particularly, Rev. Messrs Nixon & Hyde of Indianapolis, to say that if in any branch of the Bureau, under your charge, my services can avail for good, I shall feel it an honor to co-operate in the work. During the war I have been unfortunate, as a mere question of personal ambition, to have been on detached duty, of great care and importance, as it resulted; but, separating me from my command, and the consequent sympathy of friends in the Army whose opinion I value. It was not my choice; but I am content, knowing I conscientiously did my duty; and that will last, when honors fade.

Now, it may be, that my legal experience and other studies, would prove adaptive to the peculiar wants of the Bureau. I know how gradually and under what embarrassments such labor must develop; but it seems to me, that, under God, there is opened up a field of duty, where just and humane treatment, with Christian fidelity, and ample protection from imposition, will give to the Freedmen an established status which may reconcile both white and black to this new relation, and end in great good to both.

On account of illness I delayed writing before, and Mr Nixon, as chairman of a committee of Clergymen has just sundered his connection with them. He informed me that your plan was to include as far as possible only Christian officers in the work; and thought it my duty to engage in it. Just before leaving Indianapolis, I also received a note from Mr Chase, who was then just leaving Columbus for the east, that he had communicated to you respecting my engaging in the work. It will be some months before my regiment can be restored to its original strength; and, while I do not count renewal of Bureau labor, in which I have been so much engrossed, I should deem it due to my long established connections of our duty to the Blacks, to so labor if desired. Mr Dennison, Judge <Swague>, Genl Ekin, Gov Wright, Mr Chase and many others at Washington know my personal relations to the church and bar, as well as the Army & whether, (as they know better your views,) I could be useful in that special labor.

With consideration  
I am Your Obt Servt  
Henry B Carrington  
Brig. Genl.

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

Columbus 8 July 1865

Carrington, Henry B

Brig. Gen.

Desires situation in the Bureau.

Recd. July 16th 1865.

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2720 7/10/1865

*From:* <Athuos> F.  
Learned,  
Ass't Ag't Ass'd  
Press.

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2664

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of the New-York  
Associated Press  
No. 145 Broadway, Up  
Stairs  
New York

General Sup't Freedmen

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[220, 221]

Office of the New-York Associated Press  
No. 145 Broadway, Up Stairs  
New York, July 10, 1865

General:

I take the liberty of asking your attention to the following:-

The New England Soldiers Relief Association of this city will expire, as an institution, on the 1st of November next. The Matron of the New England Rooms, Mrs. E.A. Russell, is solicitous of engaging her services in some manner suited to her capacities. As a member of the Committee of the above Association, I can from personal observation testify to the great faithfulness, the pious tenderness, and the almost motherly care with which she has discharged her duties and great responsibilities of her position as Matron of our rooms.

Mrs. R. is eminently fitted to take charge of any depot for freed people, and would discharge the duties appertaining thereto with fidelity, honesty, and to the satisfaction of yourself and the government.

I have no hesitation in referring you to His Excellency, Gov. Andrew, to Hon Barkin D. Eliason, New Hampshire Military Agent in Washington, to Col. Gardner Tufts, Massachusetts State Agent in Washington, to Col. Howe, Superintendent of the New England Rooms or to any of the one hundred and twenty eight thousand soldiers who have sojourned at our institution during the war.

If there is any position within your province which you think she can fill she would be happy to hear from you on the subject, either directly or through me.

On the breaking out of the war Mrs Russell was obliged to leave her position as teacher in the Academy at Florence, Alabama, because she was of New England origin, and because her patrioteism made a residence among traitors both repugnant and unendurable.

She being an intimate friend of my family, and my position as a member of the New England Committee, is the reason for thus writing you, which is also done at the suggestion of Adjutant General Schouler, of Mass.

I am, General  
Your obt Servt,  
<Athuos> F. Learned,  
Ass't Ag't Ass'd Press.

To  
Major Gen O.O. Howard.  
General Sup't Freedmen

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York July 10, 1865

Learned, A.F.

Recommends to the notice of the Bureau Mrs. Russell –Matron of the New England Soldiers relief Assn

<A. S. B.> p 33

Recd. July 11, 1865

Enclose circular 6 and ask Mrs Russell to inquire of either Asst Commissioners by letter. I would forward this letter if I knew where she would prefer duty provided she could get it. O.O.J. M.G.

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2741 7/16/1865

*From:* Wm Duncan

*To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2665

Hd. Qrs. Army of the  
Tenn Louisville Ky

Chief of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[29]

Hd. Qrs. Army of the Tenn Louisville Ky  
July 16th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard  
Chief of Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.  
Sir

I have the honor herewith to recommend Myron J Remick of my company for preferment to a military education, and I would most respectfully ask your assistance in securing the same.

Myron J Remick has served through the entire rebellion just closed. He has been a good dutiful and fearless soldier. He was captured at the Battle of Pea Ridge by the enemy but exchanged for by Genl Curtis in 1862. He was detailed as clerk in the Adjutants office at Genl Carlins Hd. Qrs and for his services while there received special mention. His services at Hd Qrs Army Tenn you are familiar with and appreciated. He being very anxious to secure a military education at the West Point Academy I feel it my duty to render him every assistance.

I am Sir very respfy Your Obt Svt  
Wm Duncan  
Capt Co "K" 15th Ills Cavy.