
2736 7/15/1865 *From:* Charles <Sahny>

To: Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-2682

Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[11]

Boston 15th July '65

Dear Sir,

I have known Col. Pratt for sometime as very devoted to the freedmen, & anxious to promote their welfare. He is of the stuff for the humane & difficult service over which you preside.

Col. Pratt is of the 36th U.S. Colored Infantry, & is now in hospital at Fortress Monroe. Of course, he would like an assignment to service, so that he might report for duty at once before proceeding to Texas.

Faithfully yours,
Charles <Sahny>

2737 7/15/1865 *From:* J.B. Simpson

To: Esteemed Miss Blanche
[Berard]

OOH-2683

Source: Bowdoin

[28]

Saturday July 15th [1865]

Esteemed Miss Blanche [Berard]

When you reply to Gen Howard's letter please tell him I would like (if possible for him to give it me) the position of an "Agent" in some "Sub-district" under the supervision of a "Supt" assigned such district. But should it not be in his power to give me that I'll accept of any thing he might think me capable of filling. Any position which will give me an equivalent for services rendered.

With many thanks for your kindness, I remain very respectfully yours

J.B. Simpson

2738 7/15/1865 *From:* G.S. Newcomb

To: Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2684

Kingston, Mass

Source: Bowdoin

[12, 13]

Kingston, Mass
July 15, 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard
D'r Sir,

Pardon the liberty an old fellow-student at Bowdoin takes in addressing you.

Our life-course have widely diverged since College days, when we sat at the same table at the Grows Club. You by hard study, unflinching patriotism, brave warfare & bloody sacrifice have gained a height of fame, to which few mortals can ever hope to climb.

All through the war, I watched your course with intense interest. I have admired your course as a good soldier of the Union; but for more as a soldier of the Cross. I thank God, that you have been enabled by his grace in all your arduous campaign life, to hold high aloft the banner of the Cross, & thus, while fighting manfully for Union & liberty, to fight the good fight of faith, & lay hold on eternal life.

But while you have thus been contending on the bloody arena of civil war for God, for truth & liberty, I have lived in quite obscurity in this little town four miles from Plymouth Rock. My circumstances seemed to me to forbid my enlisting in our patriot army, as I longed to do from the first gun at Sumter. A wife with poor health & six helpless children dependent on my daily labor & care, I thought I could not leave. However, I hope I have done something for the good cause in a humble way at home. It was not the duty of every man to become a soldier.

After leaving College, I taught 10 years in Academies & High Schools. Becoming incapacitated for that work by the partial loss of my hearing, I gave it up, & came here to assist my brother in his Cotton manufacturing business. But the work is not to my taste, the life too confined, the sphere too narrow. I flatter myself that I could fill some wider sphere. I long for an opportunity to do more for my Saviour than I am doing or can do, here. And I make bold to ask you, if you can do any thing for me. Is there not some position, which you can secure for me, where I an do more good, & at the same time support my family? I am aware that offices of trust & emolument ought to be given to those, who like yourself have made sacrifices for the Union; but perhaps there is some place for me, too.

You "are about a great work" & I shall not be offended if you do "not come down" to notice my letter. Still I hope to hear from you. I pray God that you may have wisdom from above to direct you in the duties of your responsible office. You seem to me to be in the place of a father to 4 millions of helpless fellow mortals. May you have grace given you to be able with a father's devotion to protect them for injustice & oppression is the prayer of

yr old friend

G.S. Newcomb [Guilford Snow Newcomb, Bowdoin College, Class of 1848]

2739 7/15/1865 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-2685

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[14]

Leeds July 15, 1865

My dear brother:

This must be mainly a business letter. Just before leaving Richmond I called upon Mr. William Bell, the Insurance agent who insured your life. I learned from him that either half or three quarters of the \$100 extra premium that you paid for being in the army will be remitted to you on your next payment, or it will go toward paying for another & extended insurance which he can now make, say for \$3000 more. Please write him the date of your appointment as Commissioner of Freedmen &c & if not more than three months had elapsed since the last payment they will remit \$75 but if it had been more than three months they will remit \$50 to go on your next payment or you can have your insurance policy enlarged and it will be paid on the premium.

The other matter of business to speak of is: Mr. Deane, whom I think you used to know, and who is the father of the young lady in whom your brother is interested would be very glad to have a negro and wife to assist him on his farm. It is possible I mentioned this to you before. If you are so situated that you can either send or bring with you when you come east the last of the month, two individuals answering to my description who will in your judgement be good servants you will confer a favor upon me, personally. Mr. Deane is a kind hearted man and will do well by a man and Mrs. Deane would be a good person to have a negro woman with her. Why you would confer a favor upon me personally is that, my friend Rosa is very anxious to go to school but her departure from home is delayed, I imagine, by Mrs. D. who is Rosa's stepmother, who really needs her assistance in the house unless they can get a servant which is not easily done here you are aware. I am continually writing you and asking favors and I hope you will not think me importunate.

Cousin Sarah is here today and says, "Give much love to Otis." Mother says, "Tell Otis, that I am all the time thinking about writing to him." We are all going to Farmington today to remain a few days. When shall we expect you here?

With much love
Your brother
R.H. Gilmore

P.S. Mrs. Deane was formerly Miss Victoria Turner, a grand daughter of Uncle Stillman's. R.H.G.

2740 7/15/1865

From: Joshua Gastito

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2686

Source: Bowdoin

Corresponding
Secretary's Office,
Young Men's Christian
Union
Lockport, N.Y.

[15]

Corresponding Secretary's Office,
Young Men's Christian Union
Lockport, N.Y. July 15 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Dear Sir:

I have the honor to inform you, that the Board of Directors of the Young Men's Christian Union of this City, desire to secure your services as a Lecturer, upon their Course for the Winter of 1865 and 1866. Please to communicate to us as soon as possible your answer, and if favorable, your terms, and the date on which it will be convenient for you to Lecture here.

Yours, Very Truly,
Joshua Gastito
Cor. Sec'y Y.M.C.U.

[CHECK ORIGINAL –Writing on back of page 1.]

2742 7/17/1865 *From:* Caleb Tompkins

To: Maj'r Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2687

Source: Bowdoin

Champaign City
Champaign County
Illinois

[16, 17]

Champaign City Champaign County
Illinois, July 17th 1865

Maj'r Genl Howard
D'r Sir

I am with much anxiety of mind desirous to address you upon a subject which my whole future destiny depends on. If you remember on the first week in October 1864, I had the pleasure of an introduction to you, on the Piazza at Cartersville Georgia by Genl John E Smith, & your Chief Engineer, a German I think but do not recollect his name. As you all were in a hurry the Army was blocked up. Not having Roads sufficient that was know to those having Command, I as an old Resident, was by Genl Smith, the Commander of the post, called on, to Pilot or find some other Road, for your troops, to pass over, and after a genial consultation with the Engineer, I showed him on the map, the Tennessee road, which I proposed to take the Troops over, from Carterville to Casvill, thence to Kingston, & beyond. I started the corps, in motion on the Tennessee road, & In the mean time, I procured a man, who I furnished to go, & did go the whole distance, & was absent 4 days Who Informed me that my engagement was completed as agreed to at the Juncture and state of things I came to the conclusion, from the advise

those in command, It would be best for me to go north with my family which consisted of myself & 2 young ladies, my niece & a Lady from New York, who was shut in by the war, & could not return & had to remain with us, 4 years. So I arranged my affairs, as well as I could & left there, about the 28th of October, being detained in consequence of the RR being torn up from Resacca, to Tunnel Hill, 20 miles or more we passed up when the army were encamped near Dalton since which time we (myself & niece) has been without a home (for the Lady I sent to her brother in New York) at that time we were in Philadelphia, myself & niece came to New Castle Delaware where we were both taken verry sick, so much so, life was uncertain,, & near deaths door. After Our Recovery, we made our way to Washington, I was there some 2 Months & during that time I made an effort to to (& did) place my Claim before Congress for property destroyed. Are the evacuation of Cartersville but the session of Congress being near its Close nothing was done, so I procured my papers again, & having furnished the Army on all occasions what ever. I had, that they wanted from the first of the armys coming to Carterville, which was on the 20 day of May 1864 until I left provisions, lumber, sundry things as Inumerated in a bill I have which you can find recorded & filed in the different departments by the war department all the facts are set forth in due form & affirmed to, but the war dept furnished duplicate of the a/c which they wished me to get Genl Sherman or some other Genls signature to them as It could not be paid, without Vouchers, the parts of the army who procured what was taken were of the diferant were sent on the north side of the Etowa, River to forage & the infantry Stationed at the River & about our Vilage. My papers of loyalty in the War department, & all my papers that I left there, was approved by the War department as being as right, except my Vouchers so you see all that I lack is your or some Genls name to procure the the amt of damage from the Treasury.

I now appeal to you, as a Christian Brother. In my present embarassed circumstances, to do, or advise me to do, what is for the best Course for me to persue, as I am 65 years of age, Inform in health, & without means of a Support, for my self & family, always having been loyal and having Rendered services, for my country, I hold I have a Claim on my Country, Generals your self being one of that noble Class, & whose Corps I escorted from Carterville. Could you Honour me, with your Signature? I presume it would be Satisfactory with the War department if so please reply at your Earleyest Convenience & I will forward you the papers.

Having understood you were at the head of the Freedmens Bureau & In as much I have a desire to go into the State of Mississippi to Grenada or about that latitude I would be glad to Render my assistance the Government might desire me to Render. Hoping to have the honour of hearing from you Soon, with Regard to the Contents of this letter.

I am
Yours most Respectfully

Caleb Tompkins

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

Champaign, Ill.

July 17, 1865

Tompkins, Caleb

Desires vouchers for property destroyed at Cartersville, Ala.

A.L.B. 53

July 21st 1865

2743 7/17/1865

From: Davis Tillson
Brig Genl Vols &
Supt RFAL
Office Supt R.F.AL.
Sub District
Memphis

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2688

Source: Bowdoin

Chief Bureau R.F.&AL.
Washington D.C.

[18, 19]

Office Supt R.F.AL. Sub District
Memphis July 17th 1865.

General.

General Roberts of the old Army, with whom I have been messing since I came here, will call upon you in Washington. The General is well acquainted with affairs in this city and vicinity and can give you much information that will be of value to your Bureau, especially about property in this city which the commanding General of this Dist has ordered turned back to its former disloyal owners, and which if done will paralyze the efforts of some of the benevolent societies engaged in promoting the welfare of the Refugees and Freed people. I have examined the laws and orders on the subject and am quite sure that Military Commanders are not empowered to judge of the intricate questions of law fact and loyalty involved, and order property upon which the U.S. has a claim, turned over to any person except the Treasury Agents and officers of the Bureau of R.F.&AL. I have refrained from bringing up particular cases through official channels to avoid giving offense to the Commanding Generals of the District, whose continued hearty co-operation it is very desirable to secure.

I beg pardon for again alluding to my private affairs. It is unpleasant for me to think that it may very likely seem to you that I have forced myself into your Bureau and am pushing for a place, but I assure you this is not so. I simply consented to accept this duty because General Thomas desired it. I know that when engaged in good work, selfish considerations are not of place, but doubtless an officer of suitable rank can be found to take my place who will do as well or better. As I wrote you, there is a very evident impropriety in my holding this position with my present rank, which may result in unnecessary humiliation to myself and even embarrassment to your Bureau. Under the circumstances I shall not feel annoyed much less hurt or offended if my detail to serve in the Bureau should not be continued at the War Dept - or if already confirmed - if I am relieved and ordered to serve other duty, or ordered to be mustered out of the service. If some such action has not already been had, will you please give the subject your early consideration and greatly

Oblige

Yours Very Respectfully
Davis Tillson
Brig Genl Vols & Supt RFAL

Major General O.O. Howard
Chief Bureau R.F.&AL.
Washington D.C.

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

Office. Supt. R.F.&A.L. Sub Dist
Memphis July 17, 65.

Tillson, Davis
Brig Genl Supt &c

States that General Roberts, will call upon Genl Howard in Washington in a few days, & that Genl. R. can give much information concerning the affairs of the Bureau, in Tenn, especially about the restoration of property to disloyal owners in Memphis. Also alludes to the apparent impropriety of holding his position with his present rank.

FILE

2744 7/17/1865 *From:* J.W. Chickering

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2689

Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[20]

Boston

July 17 [1865]

Dear General

If you cannot, as I still hope you may, be with us at Saratoga, can you not write a word, of regret & endorsement, especially as to the army bearings of the subject?

Truly yours

J.W. Chickering

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

July 17, 1865

Boston, Mass

Chickering, J.W. Rev'd

Desires Gen. Howard's attendance at Saratoga at the Temperance meeting.

July 21st 1865 Recd

2745 7/17/1865

From: Charles Lowe

To: Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2690

Rooms of N.E.F.A. Soc.
8. Studio Building
Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[24]

Rooms of N.E.F.A. Soc.
8. Studio Building Boston
July 17, 1865

To
Maj Genl Howard:
Dear Sir:

I am instructed by the Exec. Com. of the New England Freedmens Aid Society to recommend to you for appointment to some post in connection with your Department, James Redpath, who has been, during four months, our efficient Superintendent in Charleston, S.C.

We have had ample opportunity of knowing his capacity for usefulness, and the only reason why we do not retain him in our service is that the policy of our Society in regard to salaries forbids our offering him the sum which his abilities warrant & which is necessities oblige him to ask. He has shown remarkable energy & sagacity, & nuturing enthusiasm for the cause. He acquired a wonderful influence among the whole colored population of Charleston. And we do not know a man who could have done so much for the establishment of our schools.

We wish to give our exact impression in regard to Mr Redpath in thus urging him upon your notice, and therefore deem it fair to say that we have sometimes feared that his influence among the blacks was too exciting to be wholesome & that his enthusiasm might carry him too far. Yet, induced as we were because of this apprehension to watch his course very carefully, we can say that his course was in most cases judicious & his influence salutary. And that the danger to be feared from his impulsiveness (especially when in a position under a Department like yours) is nothing to counterbalance the value of his experience & his rare qualifications which make him a person whom the cause cannot afford to lose.

If you should decide to act upon the suggestion which we thus respectfully submit, and wish to confer with Mr Redpath, his address is Malden, Mass. Or he could be reached by directing to the rooms of this Society.

I am, Sir, with great respect,
Very truly yours
Charles Lowe

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]
Boston July 17, 1865
Lowe, Chas.
Cor Secy, N.E.F.A.Soc.
Recommends James Redpath as Supt of Schools in this Bureau
Recd July 20, 1865

2746 7/17/1865 *From:* SP Chase

To: Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2691

Concord, N.H.

Source: Bowdoin

[21, 22, 23]

Concord, N.H. July 17, 1865

General,

Your telegram in reply to one from me reached me in Rhode Island. I thank you for your attention though the reply is not what I desired.

My commendation of General Carrington, it is due to him to say, was not at his suggestion or that of any of his friends. I had learned from him that he had been ordered to Columbus; probably to be mustered out of the volunteer service, and I thought he might be usefully employed under you. Hence my action.

Your telegram shews plainly enough that you think I have commended an unworthy person, and as I am quite convinced of the contrary, I must believe that you are either misled by erroneous information, or imperfect observation. At any rate it is simple justice to put you in possession of the grounds of my opinion.

My acquaintance with General Carrington began when he was a partner in law practice with Governor Dennison now Post Master General. My impressions were favorable, though we did not then agree politically. Afterwards when the circumstances of the country led to new political organization & I became Governor of the State of Ohio, he became Adjutant General. Our military condition was then anything but what it ought to be. I attempted a reform & my advances were most efficiently seconded & promoted by him. Almost without compensation he was unwearied in labors & eminently judicious. He contributed as much as any many to prepare that better condition from which Ohio advanced easily to those efforts & work which have made he part in the war sufficiently honorable.

His integrity was as scrupulous as his labors were constant as a member of a Christian Church his walk was without reproach.

His moral & religious character, his services in the military office I put him in, and his diligent &, as I supposed still suppose, successful prosecution of military studies led me, when the new regiments were organized to recommend him as one of those who were to be commissioned from civil life. In some way General Pratt had received a favorable opinion of him & he accepted kindly my suggestion, & General C. was commissioned as Colonel.

For some reason he was never sent into the field; but employed in other duties. I always heard him well spoken of, except that he was once charged with having been intoxicated. I felt assured that if there was any truth in the charge, it must be that the intoxication was the consequence of some unusual conditions. I knew that the use of alcoholic stimulants had been prescribed to him for lung disease. I supposed it possible that under great fatigue or to some peculiar circumstances he might have been overcome. That he was guilty of habitual or even occasional excess or that he ever knowingly transgressed the bounds of temperance, I did not believe nor do I now believe. It would contradict his whole life.

That he filled his post creditably & that he performed his responsible duties with great honor to himself & great usefulness to the country I was completely assured by Gov. Morton & others, while almost equal capacity & opportunity of correct judgment.

Lately I have heard that some charge touching his administrative integrity was made sometime since. If any such charge can be made good, I give him up, but I know no man in respect to whom I should be more certain that such a charge cannot be sustained.

I have no more to say. I hope you will find time to read this & let me know that you have used it. I have nothing to ask.

The most important position under the President is yours. No man can desire your complete success more ardently than

Yours truly respectfully

SP Chase [Salmon P. Chase, Senator and Governor of Ohio and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.]

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written at the bottom of the last page in red, and in a different hand.]

Recd. B.R.F. & A.L. July 19 1865

2747 7/17/1865 *From:* Blanche Berard

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2692

West Point

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[26, 27]

West Point July 17th 1865

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Washington
My dear friend

If Gen Hayman should be connected with the Bureau of which you are Chief, my addressing a letter of the character of the enclosed to him instead of to you, might strike you as more than a little singular. To avoid such an impression which I should not like to exist in your mind, I send the letter through you with the following explanation.

My brother-in-law Gen Vogdes, sent a message to me a few days since, to the effect that I had better write to Gen Hayman, and ask him if he could give my brother Robert a situation in the bureau <[torn page]> which he is connected, this <[torn page]> afford him a living without his being worked to death, which is about the condition of things with him now. Gen. H is a cousin of my brother-in-law and I knew him quite well during his Cadet days. There was therefore no impropriety in my addressing him, and for reasons which I cannot very well state in a letter I concluded it to be altogether best to act upon Gen V's suggestion.

Perhaps you may be surprised that I should seek for a situation of this kind for Robert, thinking him not adapted for it. But I feel strongly that if his untiring industry, energy and capacity (for he has a good deal of this last) could only be applied to one certain routine of business, instead of being pressed beyond measure by demands which no one man (especially without so it all) could possibly fulfill, <[torn page]> the case now, he would do <admirably.[torn page]> He would be useful and happy in his work & have the prospect of a longer life than I fear will be the case if he continues much longer as over-wrought as he is now.

I feel therefore, that whether successful or not, I ought to make this application for him. It may be the opening, the way which God has prepared in answer to my prayers. And it may not be His will so to answer them. He who ordereth all things well do what is best for us and I strive to leave all in humble submission to His will.

I enclose [OOH-2683, 7/15/1865] a note from John Simpson, which may give you some idea of the kind of work he would like.

Knowing as I do how fully your time is occupied, and how great must be the pressure of correspondence, I beg that you will not feel at all obliged to answer this letter. Gen Hayman will of course furnish me with some sort of reply to the note to him and that will answer all purposes.

I am animated by no hope of success in this application and only make it because I feel it is my duty to do it. Not, my dear friend, that I doubt for one moment your willingness to confer such a benefit, if in your gift and power, but that I think it altogether probable that there will be no post vacant, and besides, for years, disappointment has been my lot in all efforts for Robert & Charles and I cannot indulge hope now.

With love, when you write, to Mrs Howard, and the little ones, I remain

Every truly yr friend
Blanche Berard

2748 7/17/1865 *From:* JT Ford

To: Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2693

Balto

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[46]

The American Telegraph Company

Dated: Balto July 17th 1865

Rec'd Washington 17th 1865

To Gen O.O. Howard

As I was leaving the Hotel for Balto. At 11 oclock today a note of Mr Ballantynes was placed in my hands requesting me to call on you. I will return to Washington on Wednesday, when, if it is your desire, I will be happy to call at any convenient hour after ten 10 oclock. An answer here by telegraph, or to the Theatre, tenth st. will reach me.

JT Ford

2749 7/17/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2694

Source: Bowdoin

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands,
Washington

[614]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, July 17th, 1865

Dearest

I enclose you 200 dollars just drawn. I am intending to try for home as soon as Col. Fullerton returns from the South. I hope Chas will be able to return with him & go on with me to Maine.

Guy is quite well. He barked his chin a little and has a little sore which the Dr is fixing up, otherwise well. His blood is not quite right.

Much love to the children & yourself. I hope I may get home before the first of August.

Lovingly in haste your husband
Otis