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2799 7/28/1865

*From:* F.W. Gilbreth

*To:* C.C.W. Foster

OOH-2744

*Source:* Bowdoin

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

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[126, 127]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington, July 28th, 1865.

Col Foster  
A.A.G.  
Col.

Gen Howard desires me to ask you to send to this Bureau the numbers of the Colored regiments engaged at Fort Fisher. Also where those regiments now are.

Very Respy.  
Your Obt Servant  
F.W. Gilbreth  
Bvt Maj & A.D.C.

[Written on a separate page (127), in a different hand.]

H. 163. <>

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees &c  
July 28th 1865.  
F.W. Gilbreth  
Maj & A.D.C.

States that Genl Howard desires to know the numbers of the Colored Regiments engaged at Fort Fisher & their present whereabouts.

Recd A G D July 28 65

[Written in a middle column on page 127, in a third hand.]

<[CHECK ORIGINAL top line obscured by glued edge.]

Aug 1, 1865

Respectfully returned to Bvt. Major F.W> Gilbreth, Aide-de-Camp, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c, Washington, D.C.

The following named regiments of U.S. Colored Troops, now serving in the Department of North Carolina, formed a portion of the force engaged in the attack upon Fort Fisher to wit: 1st, 4th, 6th, 30th, and 37th Regiments U.S. Colored Infantry.

The 5th, 27th and 39th Regiments of U.S. Colored Troops are supposed to have been <engaged [CHECK ORIGINAL, top line obscured in glued edge], although the records of this office do not show that they were.

By order of the Secretary of War:

C.C.W. Foster  
A.A. Genl. Vols  
E.B. Col. 3 at Page 504.

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2800 7/28/1865 *From:* Dan'l N. Haskell

*To:* Major Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2745

Transcript Office,  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Transcript Office,  
Boston, July 28th 1865

To Major Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

We received, & have printed your Circular, taking the occasion of its appearance in the columns of the Transcript, to express our views of the able manner in which you have thus far discharged the difficult duties of your "Bureau", & asking for it the patience & confidence of the public.

With the best wishes for your complete success in your new position, we remain,

Your Obt. Servant  
Dan'l N. Haskell,  
Editor

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2801 7/28/1865 *From:* S.G. Catlett

*To:* Maj Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-2746

Near Catletts Station  
[Virginia]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100]

Near Catletts Station [Virginia]  
July 28th 1865

Maj Genl. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Now that the War is over and we have had time and opportunity to realize our situation I feel it a duty owing my family to endeavour to obtain some indemnity for my losses from the Government. I have concluded to address you on the subject and ask your advice as to how I shall proceed in the matter, and also your influence. Your former kindness & consideration while encamping on our place, encourage me to believe that you will excuse the liberty I take in doing so. All I have lost in the way of buildings, fencing, timber, stock & provendu, has been entirely by the U.S. troops, indeed we have little else left except what was in our house. If I had taken any part whatever against the Government I should ask nothing, but I have remained at home during the war, and always shown all the hospitality in my power to the US troops. If it is not asking too much, I will be glad to receive a communication from you.

Mrs Catlett & Lottie desire to be remembered particularly to you. Lottie still remembers you with the warmest affection. We are truly glad that you have been spared amid the dangers of military life to your family & friends. Nothing would give us more pleasure than to see you at our house again. Please present our kindest regards to your Brother. We shall remember you both with gratitude as long as we live.

Very Respectfully &  
Truly yrs.  
S.G. Catlett

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

Catletts Sta. Va  
July 28th 1865  
Catlett S.G.

Asks advice related to obtaining payment for property lost during the war.

Answd

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2802 7/28/1865    *From:* B.H Cadbury

*To:* Esteemed Friend [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2747

*Source:* Bowdoin

Birmingham and  
Midland  
Freed Men's Aid  
Association

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[102, 103, 104]

Birmingham and Midland  
Freed Men's Aid Association  
Chairman and Treasurer, Edward Gem, Esq., J.P., Charlotte Street  
Corresponding Secretary, B.H Cadbury, 29, George Street, Edgbaston  
Corresponding Member, Arthur Albright, 30, George Street, Edgbaston  
Recording Secretary, William Morgan, Waterloo Street

7th Mo: 28th 1865

Esteemed Friend

On the 4th Inst I received a packet of printed papers from thy office containing Circular Nos 2, 3, 5 & 7 also "Act referred to in General orders No 92 (AGU) 1856".

And to day a similar one containing Circular N 8, all very interesting to our Association, & perhaps more so to us than any other from the extent of our operations in this work of mercy.

The object of my writing is to inform thee that I was disposed to have refused each of them as we had to pay 4/- for each packet, but as they came from the "Official" I feared to do so least they might contain matter connected with the transmission of Goods we are forwarding free of duty and Freight for the use of the Col'd: people. We are working our Assns on this side the water without paid agency to any great extend, makes us jealous of laying out money in this way. If they have been open at the ends this would have cost only one penny to us & a trifle to yourselves, as it is a Government packed I suppose it would have been free.

"Multitudes of civilians are pressing & clamorous for appointments, but General Howard assures me his selection shall be made very carefully, & that he will have no heartless, profane, & irreligious men around him" May thou be long spared for the great work that is before thee & be permitted to perform it with the single eye in which thou hast commenced it, is the earnest desire of many earnest workers in this side the waters for these Colored People.

I have read with great interest a paragraph in the fourth Report of the Comr of Representatives of New York yearly meeting of Friends as per enclosed.

Thine truly  
B. H. Cadbury

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Birmingham England  
July 28th 1865.  
Cadbury B.H.  
States that 4s was paid on packages of orders.

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2798 7/28/1865

*From:* J.M. McKim

*To:* Major Gen'l OO. Howard

OOH-2743

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of the American  
Freedman's Aid Union,  
69 Nassau St., New  
York

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &c  
Washington, D.C.

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[105, 106]

Bureau of the American Freedman's Aid Union,  
69 Nassau St., New York, July 28th, 1865

Major Gen'l OO. Howard,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir:

Please accept my thanks on behalf of this Union for copies of your orders kindly sent me from time to time upon their issuance.

You will be interested to learn that the work, so auspiciously begun when Mr. Jay & I called upon you, of gathering into one National body all the Freedmens Associations on the basis of the American Freedmens Aid Union & progressing hopefully toward completion.

We have arranged with the Rev. Mr. Boardman, Gen'l Secretary of the Christian Commission for the transference of himself, and auxiliaries which he can control, to the service of the Union. His location to be the city of Philadelphia.

We have made in part similar arrangements with Dr. Joseph D. Parrish, one of the leading men in the Sanitary Commission; he to be located in Washington to serve – for your convenience & for the good of the cause – as intermediary between your Bureau and our “Union”.

We have invited Fred'k Law Olmsted – now in California – with a promise of a liberal salary to become Gen'l Secretary of the American Freedmen's Aid Union; to be located in this city, and to have the chief charge of the movement.

We at this time embrace in one harmonious whole all the leading Freedmens Associations on the Eastern Slope of our Country; and are in cordial & cooperative relations with all the principal Freedmens societies in the West.

At present the Constituent Associations of the Union are united by a representation of delegates; we are now digesting a plan by which they will be made one by consolidation; including as I have said the auxiliaries of the Christian and Sanitary Associations.

Until this consolidation takes place & perhaps afterward we shall be governed by the original constitution, a copy of which I enclose.

The officers of the Union as at present constituted are:

Hon H.L. Bone –President

J.J McKine –Secretary

Executive Committee:

John Parkman

John Jay

O.B. Frothingham

Francis R. Cope

E.M. Irish

Evans. Rogers

H. L. Bond

D.M. McKim

[In addition to bein on the Executive Committee, the last two on the list were Ex. Officio]

I have the honor to be, Dear Sir,  
Yours very truly  
J.M. McKim  
Sec A. F.A.U.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York July 28 / '65  
McKim J.M.  
Sec A.F.A.U.  
Reports progress in consolidating freedmens societies.

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2803 7/28/1865

*From:* John M. Oliver  
Brig. Gen.

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2748

Headquarters, 2d Div.,  
15th Army Corps,  
Little Rock, Ark.

Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[107]

Headquarters, 2d Div., 15th Army Corps,  
Little Rock, Ark., July 28th 1865.

Dear Sir,

The kindness of your letter to me almost compensated for my disappointment in not being able to get the position I desired. I am truly grateful for your many kindnesses to me & hope still that something may occur that will place me under your command again. Should you need any more employees in your bureau do not forget me. I am not particular in what part of the country I serve but I would like to do something for these people who have always been friends, who have always been true, & who would have done much more than they did to help the Gov't if our own prejudices had not prevented them. I think as the country gets settled & the plantations worked that you will need commissioners in every state. The interests involved now both of labor & capital are very large and are rapidly growing larger.

I have been much pleased to see the strong desire they have that their children should be educated. There will be a wonderful improvement in the race and its status in the next five years if we only start right now. Hoping that I may soon hear from you again I remain,

Very Truly Your  
Servant & Friend  
John M. Oliver  
Brig. Gen.

To  
Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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2805 7/29/1865      *From:* Thomas W. Conway      *To:* Major General OO. Howard

OOH-2750      Head Quarters Asst.      Commissioner etc. etc.  
*Source:* Bowdoin      Commissioner      Washington D.C.  
Bureau Refugees  
Freedmen &c  
State of Louisiana  
New Orleans

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[108, 109]

Head Quarters Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c  
State of Louisiana  
New Orleans July 29th 1865

Major General OO. Howard,  
Commissioner etc. etc.  
Washington D.C.  
General:-

Upon further information of a reliable character I find that not only should Maj Plumley have been removed from his office on the Board of Education, at the time he was removed, but that he ought to have been removed long before. His private life has been so revolting that good men have come to me expressing their surprise that he was retained in his situation. He has remained all night in company with a United States Army officer, in one of the most disreputable restaurants in this city, drinking repeatedly according to Mr. Plumley's own acknowledgement.

There are many reports concerning his habitual visits to other places which have even worse name than this restaurant. My knowledge on the subject brought me to consider most anxiously, that justice both to the Bureau and myself required a change, even though it would bring upon me any amount of the most violent bitterness and malice.

As I expected, petitions to you are reported. These are made for my removal. I am informed that a few evenings ago a meeting of a few dissatisfied men in company with Mr Plumley met together and amid the drinking of wine and loud threats and promises, a petition to you was fixed upon.

You will find by consulting Mr Chase, the chief Justice, who knows Mr. Plumley very well, that his removal (by the order of Gen'l Canby) will help us rather than inflict any injury whatever.

I am under heavy bonds and bound by the sacred obligations of my oath of office and if I am tenacious of the good character of the Bureau and the success of our work, I am convinced that you will be the more pleased. I have done right. My action is fearless and conscientious, I feel perfectly safe in entrusting the schools to Capt. Pease one of the most faithful officers of the army.

I write merely to impress you with the feelings that have prompted the change.

I have the honor to be, General  
Very Respectfully  
Your obt servant  
Thomas W. Conway  
Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau Ref Freedmen &c.  
State of La.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New Orleans, La.  
July 29th, 1865



Conway Thos  
Asst. Com.  
Relative to the character of Maj. Plumley

File  
Recd Bureau Rf&AL Aug 11/65

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2804 7/29/1865    *From:* J. Medill

*To:* Major Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-2749

Office of Daily Tribune,  
Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[110]

Office of Daily Tribune,  
Chicago, July 29 1865

Major Gen Howard  
Dr Sir

I have taken the liberty of enclosing you an article from my paper which explains itself. It is probable that you have already corrected this outrage and taught Col Atkins his proper duty. But if not I respectfully call your attention to it. You have a great and a difficult task to perform. It is some thing like the job of a faithful hatch dog to keep ravenous wolves from devouring a flock of sheep. The poor freedmen among the rebels are as helpless as sheep among wolves, and what adds to the misery of their situation is the heartless and pro slavery disposition evinced by many federal officers towards them. But sleepless vigilance on your part will do much to mitigate the evil and institute useful and enduring reforms, which will elevate the blacks high above their present down trodden condition.

Whatever the Chicago Tribune can do to aid you, with way of expressing wrongs and keeping public sentiment right will be done to the utmost of our power and competence.

Yours Truly  
J. Medill [Joseph Medill]  
Ed. Tribune

[Written on the first page in a different hand.]  
Chicago, Ill  
July 29  
Medill J.

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2806 7/29/1865

*From:* A.F. Moses

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2751

Goldsboro N.C.  
July 29 / 65

Washington City

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[111, 112]

Goldsboro N.C.  
July 29 / 65

Genl O.O. Howard  
Washington City  
Dear Gen'l,

Permit at this lat Hour to Say to you, that had I have known your whereabouts, before, I should have troubled you with a line. Your very kind & welcome note of the 9th April last, was handed to me at Knight on that day by your faithfull orderly, containing \$100. You left the next morning before I had time to see you in Person and tender you my thousand thanks. You certainly confered on me and my Good Wife a never forgetfull favour, one that I should be much pleased to reciprocate. With that favour, I clothed myself & Partly my better half, but for that we should have faired badly for a time.

All me to Say a word to you touching my Situation, the 1st of March last. My Property was Estimated to be worth in Good money \$100,000. I had every thing that heart could wish in this world –made it by the sweat of the brow. I was able to feed the hungry & clothe the naked, & it is a consolation to me to know, that I did it. Now in my old age 74 years, I am not able to feed myself & wife. Ever Since you left Goldsboro, I have been living on the charity of my friends. I have returned to my Plantation to try my luck with what darkies remained on it. They have turned the cold Shoulder, & refuse to help me, not a chair to Sit on, nothing to eat, no Bed to lie on, my house completely gutted of all the fine & costly furniture it once contained - & what a contrast. It seems to me I cannot bare it. But I have to. I think it will be the death of my wife.

I have no money to buy with, that is worth a copper. I have about \$35,000 of this so called confederate stuff that I hate to look at. I have nothing left now, but a naked plantation that will not bring me in any income for the next two years, on acct . If its being in Such bad repairs. My Situation is a bad one, a lamentable one.

Now what to do I dont know. I am not able to till the Soil. I would willingly work, rather do it, if I was able.

I know you Genl and I think you know me well enough to believe what I say, therefore I have taken the liberty to unbosom myself to you.

The Government of the U States has taken all I have, without any cause on my part. I have done nothing to justify such treatment. I took no part in the late rebellion. It is a well know fact, here, that I was opposed to this war from the beginning.

Allow me to ask you if it would be any thing amiss for you to state my case (as a special one) to the President, and lern of him if he has any discretionary Powers to cause me to be Partially reinstated So that I can live again in a way half or comfortable as I used to do. A Porter of a competency will satisfy me.

You are the only man in Washington City that I know at this time. I hope your days may be long and happy.

Mrs Whitford, of this place is dead - the lady at whose house you Stopped at during your stay with us.

I am sorry to Say that I have not herd a Sermon Preached Since you left for want of a Buggy & Harness, not able to purchase, too far to walk. Our health at this time is quite feeble.

I shall be pleased to hear from you, any thing that I can do for you in this section will be done with pleasure.

I am Sir, yours most truly  
A.F. Moses

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2807 7/30/1865 *From:* Wm. E. Strong

*To:* Dear Genl [OO Howard]

OOH-2752

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Quarters  
Department of  
Louisiana and Texas  
Office Provost Marshal  
General.  
New Orleans

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[113]

Head Quarters Department of Louisiana and Texas  
Office Provost Marshal General.  
New Orleans July 30th 1865

Dear Genl,

Your letter dated 15th of July and telegram of the 14th instant were rec'd by me on arrival in New Orleans three days since. I am extremely grateful to you for your kindness in writing to me. I had almost begun to think I was quite forgotten by you all in Washington. Your telegram of the 14th was the first intimation I had rec'd that I was still in the service. I supposed from the ruling of the War Dept. before I left Washington that you would not be able to retain any of your officers after the Commands to which they belonged were mustered out of the service.

I shall remain in the City until Tuesday or Wednesday of this week, and will then move on Washington. It will be necessary for me to stop at Vicksburg one day, and for two days at Helena, and a short time at Memphis. There are two or three matters which I was not able to investigate fully while on my Iowa trip, but which I shall now be able to clear up successfully.

I am spending my time with Mr. Conway and am seeing a great deal which interest me. I propose to pass tomorrow and next day visiting the colonies adjacent to N.O. I have already examined his books of account and financial papers thoroughly, and will be able upon my return to tell you all about Mr. Conway. Gen's Banks and Canby have told me about him, and I have studied him pretty well myself since I have been here.

He is honest and intends to do just right, but in my judgement he is in very deep holes and will drown before long. I mean to say, that I am fearful he has a greater burden upon his shoulders than he can carry. I may be mistaken as to Conway's ability, but when I see you can tell you what I know about him and what I have seen much better than I can write it.

I have seen Genl. Canby several times and he has treated me with the greatest kindness and courtesy. I am invited to dine with him to day.

I am better than when I wrote you last, but am not yet well. I have had a tough campaign on the river, and shall be delighted when I get north of Cairo.

Love to all the good people at the house.

Ever Yours Truly  
Wm. E. Strong  
I. Gnl.

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2808 7/31/1865    *From:* Thos. I Hunt

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2753

*Source:* Bowdoin

Care of Edw. Shippen  
atty at law  
S.E. Cn. 6th Walnut  
Philadelphia

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[115]

Phl. July 31 1865.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Commander of the "Freedmen's Department."

General -

I am now preparing for publication, containing a short sketch of the lives of "Our Generals".

It is my design that each sketch should be prefaced by an authentic steel engraving of the individual to whom the Chapter is devoted.

I therefore request that you send me your "Carte de Visite", and also your autograph with a short sketch of your life, from your own pen.

With an apology for this intrusion upon your time and attention, I have the honor to be,

Your most Obt. Servant.  
Thos. I Hunt  
Care of Edw. Shippen  
atty at law  
S.E. Cn. 6th Walnut  
Philadelphia

An early answer is requested.

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2809 7/31/1865     *From:* Jos. Segar

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2754

Roseland, near

Comm'r Freedman's Affairs  
Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[116, 117]

Roseland, near  
July 31st '65

My Dear Sir,

I venture to enclose you the orders made by the Court of my County, (Elizabeth City) whih, I am sure, will be regarded with interest by the Freedmen's Bureau.

As one of the Commission charged with Conference with the Military Authorities, I had concluded, before seeing the plan adopted in Alexandria, to suggest a similar one for our County, more interested in the subject perhaps than any other County or locality in the state, owing to the very large number of Colored population among us.

It seems to me, in all deference, that this is about the best possible disposition that can be made of this delicate and perplexing subject. And a single reason seems to me conclusive of the question.

By the assisting laws of Virginia, negro testimony is excluded, and many other enactments inconsistent with the preset state of the negro, remain on the statute book unrepealed. Doubtless, the Legislature will in time make many and material modifications in the premises, certainly in referral to negro testimony.

But until these modifications be made, the old laws remain in force, and the civil authorities are bound by oath to respect them. For example, when a case comes up, how, with negro testimony forbidden by positive state enactment, can the state official admit such testimony? The laws of Congress are generally and, I think, conscientiously regarded as not reaching the state tribunals, and to enforce them by military power upon those tribunals, certainly would not promote conciliation.

But the whole difficulty is met by turning over the whole matter, Civil and Criminal, to a Provost Court. This would be a United States Court, and being a United States Court, would administer United States laws, those relating to the testimony of Colored people, as well as others. Thus, a most troublesome and disturbing subject would pass, I dare think, with almost universal acceptability, from state to federal jurisdiction.

But to render the plan effective, you will readily perceive, I doubt not, that it would be necessary to constitute these Provost Courts of men of the first order of character and ability, and of considerable legal acquiescence. Perfect impartiality and uniform justice – I think only to be had at the hands of persons of this description – will be indispensable to the success of any system that shall be adopted.

It strikes me, on the whole – and I speak from much observation – that, in the radical change in the status of the Colored people, it is wholly impossible to administer a policy by any other than federal authority and agency. No divided jurisdiction can avail.

I am,

With great Respect

Yr. Obt. Servt.

Jos. Segar [Joseph Eggleston Segar, U.S. Representative from Virginia]

Gen. Howard

Comm'r Freedman's Affairs

Washington

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

Rosland

July 31st 1865

Segar J

Advised establishment of Provost Courts