
2821 8/4/1865

From: J.M. Armour

To: Maj. Gen. OO Howard

OOH-2766

506 L St Washington
DC

Source: Bowdoin

[133]

506 L St Washington DC Aug 4th 1865

Maj. Gen. OO Howard
Dear Sir

After some conversation in regard to the probability of obtaining a grant of Abandoned, or Confiscated lands, as property, in aid of a College, for the Freedmen of our Country, to be located in the South, you were so kind as to propose to give a reply in writing. Your opinion or advice in regard to the following points, will be thankfully received.

- 1 Should we petition Congress for a grant of certain lands or property?
- 2 In that case might we hope that you would favor our cause?
- 3 Should our Board of Education, prefer to apply directly to you, (rather than to Congress) would you feel justified to entertain & act upon their application?
- 4 In any case, may we not rely upon Govt protection in carrying forward this work?

Sincerely hoping you may be able to give a reply, which will be encouraging to those who are laboring in this good cause.

I am Dear Sir
Yours Truly
J.M. Armour

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

Washington
Aug 4, 1865
Armour J.M.

Asks opinion and advice of Genl. Howard, on points within stated, concerning the probability of obtaining a grant of land in aid of a College for Freedmen.

[Written on the back page, in the hand of OO Howard.]

J.M. Armour
Answered

2822 8/4/1865

From: M E DeGraffenreid

To: Major General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2767

Millbury Mass.

Source: Bowdoin

[139]

Major General Howard
Dear Sir

As I have received no letters from my friends South since I arrived North conclude that mails are not yet established at Chester therefore fear my agent will not receive your Duplicate as my letter requesting him to call on Col. Ely for mules.

If it will not trouble you too much will be greatly obliged if you will request General Gilmore or Colonel Ely to reserve twenty mules & two horses for me & I will send for them as soon as I return South. Expect to be there the first of Oct. if not sooner. If there are no mules to be disposed of in S.C. trust you will procure for me some of those that are to be sold during the present month at Washington.

Do not wish fancy horses but those suitable for carriage & also to work on plantation. Fear that I am troubling you very much but trust that my great need is sufficient apology for my importunity.

Very Respectfully &c
M E DeGraffenreid

Millbury Mass. Aug. 4th 1865.

2823 8/5/1865

From: A.J. Alexander

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2768

Knoxville Tenn

Washington City D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[140, 141]

Private

Knoxville Tenn Aug 5 / 65

Major Genl O.O. Howard

Washington City D.C.

General,

As the time approaches for the reorganization of the Army, all officers who desire to remain in the army are collecting such records of their past services as may have a bearing on their promotion. With this view I write you to request if you have leisure to write to the Adjutant General of the army what you may recollect of my services as Adjutant General of the <4th> Army corps during the Atlanta Campaign and in pursuit of Hood as far as Gaylesville Ga.

In this connection I desire to remind you of the fact that Genl Ransom who was in command of the Corps was sick in an ambulance during the entire march from Marietta Ga to Gaylesville the control of the Corps devolving upon me entirely. I would also recall to your recollection the fact that when it was proposed to place Genl Stoneman in command during Genl Blairs temporary absence Gels Leggett & Belknap expressed the wish that I should carry on the business of the Corps & conduct its marches. Genl Ransom to whom I should have applied for this part of my record unfortunately for the country died as you recollect at Gaylesville.

If you recollect my services and think they are worthy of mention I will be much obliged to you if you will address a communication to the Adjutant Genl.

I was in all the battles in which my Corps was engaged about Atlanta. But as I was not under your personal eye & only did my duty I do not desire any mention of them.

In conclusion I desire to say that if you have the slightest objection to comply with my wishes in this respect please do not hesitate to decline as I fully recognize the fact that I have no claims upon you except such as every subordinate soldier has upon his commander.

I have the honor to be

Very Resply

Your Ob St.

A.J. Alexander [Andrew Johnson Alexander]

Capt 3d U.S. Cavalry

Bv Brig Genl Vols

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

Knoxville Tenn.

August 5th 1865

Alexander A. J.

Bvt. Brig. Genl.

Desires recommendation for promotion

2824 8/5/1865

From: C.J. Watson
Capt & A.Q.M.

To: Brig Genl. J L. Hodsdon

OOH-2769

Depot of Clothing and
Equipage,
Harrisburg, Pa.

Adjt Genl. State of Maine

Source: Bowdoin

[142]

Depot of Clothing and Equipage,
Harrisburg, Pa., August 5 1865

General,

Knowing the interest you take in the welfare of Maine boys I take the liberty of asking a favor. The necessity for a Depot at this place no longer existing I am ordered to close up, and proceed to my residence and report to the Adj. Gen. U.S.A. by letter for orders, which is equivalent to a muster out. And not wishing to leave the service at present, I wish you would see General Howard, and ask him if he cannot give me a position in his Bureau, and get me ordered accordingly, as he has to have a good many officers.

I will be under great obligations if you will assist me thus much.

I am general
Very Respectfully
Your Obed't Servt
C.J. Watson
Capt & A.Q.M.

Brig Genl. J L. Hodsdon
Adjt Genl. State of Maine

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]
Harrisburg Pa.
August 5, 1865
Watson C.J..
Capt & A.Q.M.
Desires a position in Bureau R.F.&A.L.

[Written on the back page, by OO Howard]
Attended to

2825 8/6/1865

From: A. Merrell

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2770

Geneva

Source: Bowdoin

[143]

Geneva, Aug. 6th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

My dear Friend,

I thought you would like to see the change a little time has made in the looks of our dear boy Howard. The photograph does not give his usually pleasant expression as he was growing tired from repeated sittings, but it is more distinct than we have been able to obtain before.

Very respectfully

<Jarv>

A. Merrell

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

Geneva, Aug. 6, 1865

Merrill, A.

Friendly Letter

2827 8/7/1865

From: William Alexander

To: George Gibbs Esq.

OOH-2771

New York

355 H. St. North,
Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

144, 145, 146]

New York, Aug. 7, 1865

My Dear Sir -

It seems to be now generally conceded that the rebellion, of which negro slavery formed the chief <break>, was organized to extend and perpetuate the political power of the persons (politicians) who put it into operation. These politicians having failed to obtain foreign aid, and having on their appeal to arms been conquered, now wish to be "conciliated", i.e. restored to work continued in political power. They will be content with nothing less, and it is now their aim to excite dissatisfaction among the people at home and to bring about a political combination with all all disaffected elements in the loyal states so as again by means of it to ride into place with power. They can only be "conciliated" by giving them office. As giving office to traitors is out of the question, how can they be frustrated in their scheme of agitation? The answer is plain. They can be broken down politically at home by simply hiring out the freedmen equitably –by distributing them among the mass of the people, and especially among those who have not been slave holders at all, or, who have not seen large slaveholders before. Through the planters, of whom the rebel politicians are, or, to whom they belong, would arise a huge out-cry because they would not be allowed to monopolize as heretofore the labor of their respective State, this course of procedure would certainly set the majority of the people against them, would build up a controlling party loyal not only through principle but from interest. The freedmen would certainly be better treated when hired to those who would work along with them, and the subdivision of labor would come the production of, in the aggregate, larger crops. As a matter of course the planters and politicians would bitterly oppose the equitable distribution of the freedmen among the people at large. Accustomed to hold a monopoly of labor and of political power, they would spare no effort, no expense to keep up their cherished system of monopolies. They would even try to convince the powers that be that unless their lands be cultivated by negroes hired by themselves no sufficient crops could possibly be produced. When it is borne in mind that land is "a doing" in the hitherto slave states, and besides, that if they can't cultivate their own lands they will be compelled to sell, or, to rent them in order to subsist, this objection will have its proper weight.

The whole matter of reconstruction is, in my judgment, easily controllable by means of the Bureau of Freedmen. There is no need of putting the programme suggested into print. If it be quietly adopted and carried out the result will be the building up of a loyal party which will out-number and put down at home the baffled traitors who having failed in their resort to arms have betaken themselves to systematic agitation to effect as far as may be their original purpose.

In haste
Very Sincerely yours
William Alexander

George Gibbs Esq.
355 H. St. North,
Washington, D.C.

P.S. I am sorry Mrs Chase had left before you recd my letter.

Can you get the suggestion mentioned in the letter to which this P.S. is appended before Gen Howard? If so, use it. My belief is that the Freedmen's Bureau can, by doing only what is fair, rush right in itself, save us from a terrible and unnecessary struggle. At all events, it ought not to be an instrument for carrying out any monopoly.

I am still writing here to close up if possible a matter of Texas business, and do not expect to start southwards until some time next month. You shall here from me as to the matters in Texas in which I wish soon to be interested before I leave.

None of the best people of Texas have arrived here, as yet.

2828 8/7/1865

From: S.D. Bowker

To: Maj. Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2772

Augusta Me

Source: Bowdoin

[147, 148]

Augusta Me
Aug 7th 1865

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard
Dear Sir,

I have already informed you of the existence and character of Lincoln College. It is named for that great christian emancipator Abraham Lincoln and is designed To commemorate the principle of Freedom over Slavery and to serve as a standing memory of those who have assisted in achieving that victory.

To give a practical bearing to this Memorial of our National Conflict, it is proposed to establish free scholarships with special reference to educating the children of those who have sacrificed their lives in defence of their country.

These scholarships it is designed to name for men who have distinguished themselves in fighting for the restoration of the Union. If this enterprise meets with your approbation it is proposed to endow a scholarship to be named for yourself as one of those whose services have contributed so largely to the success of the armies of the Republic.

Most Truly Yours
S.D. Bowker

P.S.

If in reply you feel to endorse the general plan of the college it may be of some service to me in my work. And as to the special object of endowing and naming a scholarship for yourself you will, of course, say as much or little as you deem best.

A reply would reach me this week at Portland Me.
S.D.B.

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

Augusta Me.
Aug 7, 1865
Bowker S.D.

Concerning the proposal to establish free Scholarships in Lincoln College, for the benefit of children of Soldiers.

[Written on the last page in OO Howard's hand.]

Answered
S.D. Bowker

2829 8/7/1865

From: Wm King

To: Maj Gen O O. Howard

OOH-2773

New York

Washington D C

Source: Bowdoin

[149, 150]

New York
7 Aug 1865

Washington D C
Maj Gen O O. Howard
My dear Sir

I expect to leave here on Saturday on my mission to the east. My design is to address the public for the purpose of informing them of

- 1 The sad condition & destitution of our afflicted Country at the South
- 2 The present condition and future prospects of the Freedmen
- 3 The inducements offered at the South for emigration; expense & profits in cultivating Cotton & Rice

My purpose I find meets general approval here, and I truly hope may do good. I do not wish you <will> <> to endorse my opinions, as you cannot be fully acquainted with them; but a Letter from you, so well known, & so <> interested in the well being of the Negro Race, approving of my proposed course of giving information at the North would materially facilitate the success of my labours. I am thoroughly opposed to slavery & always have been, and if I know my own heart I earnestly desire to arrest the great evils which now hang over the Negro, and to fit him better for the duties of life, and thus advance the general happiness & prospects of our Country. I have many letters of commendation but none will be as valuable to me as one from you –if perfectly agreeable to you to aid me with such a Letter; be pleased to send it to me at your earliest convenience (if only a few lines) address to the “Care of Ralph King Esq No 59 Beaver Street New York” .

I truly hope you will not allow your large plantation (of 3,000 000 Negro) by its necessary cares & responsibilities to wear you out.

I remain Genl
very respfly Yr ob Ser
Wm King
of Savannah

2830 8/7/1865

From: Philip Leidy

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2774

No 538. North , 11th St.
Philad'a

Source: Bowdoin

[151]

No 538. North , 11th St. Philad'a
August 7th 1865

My dear General,

Excuse the familiarity I take in writing you.

I am anxious to secure the appointment as "Examining Surgeon for Pensions" in the City.

I have been mustered out of the service, after serving nearly four years as Surgeon, as for order of the War Dep't reducing the Armies.

I will forward my application to Joseph H. Barrett, Esq Commissioner of Pensions, and would like to have a letter of recommendation from you to forward with it, as it will give it more weight.

Hoping it will meet with your favorable consideration

I remain very Respy

Your Ob't Serv't

Philip Leidy USO

Late, Asst. Surg. 106th R.I. - Surgeon, 119th R.I.

2831 8/8/1865

From: Sidney Perham

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2775

Source: Bowdoin

United States of
America
Thirty Eighth Congress
House of
Representatives
Paris

[155]

United States of America
Thirty Eighth Congress
House of Representatives
Washington City [Washington City was crossed out] Paris Aug. 8, 1865.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard,
My Dear Sir,

Lieut C. W. Keyes, who has lost a foot in the service, would be very glad to obtain a place in the Freedmen's Bureau. He is a good man, and I hope you will be able to give him a place.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

Sidney Perham [Representative to U.S. Congress from Maine, 1863-1868]

2832 8/8/1865

From: Lyman Abbott

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2776

Source: Bowdoin

American Union
Commission
15 Bible House
New York

[154]

American Union Commission
15 Bible House
New York, Aug 8 1865

Dear Sir,

I have written to arrange for a public meeting in Portland for the purpose of setting before its citizens the duties which the Northern States owe to the people of the South, in reconstructing Christian civilization there. If successful in the arrangements as I have every reason to expect to be the meeting will be held on the 1st Sabbath of Sept in the evening.

I write to invite you to be present & address the people on such occasion on the general subject, but especially on the wants of the Freedmen & Refugees. I should be glad to receive your reply as soon as convenient. I am very sure the citizens of Maine will be very glad if you will give them this opportunity of hearing you. And if your answer is in the affirmative I will go to Portland & make the necessary arrangements for such a meeting myself.

I have to-day rec' the enclosed letter from Gov. Brownlow. We are prepared to send a teacher of experience, a graduate of Yale College, a devoted Christian, studying for the ministry, or at least intending eventually to enter it, to take charge of this Academy if it can be surrendered & made fit for use. Remembering your assurances that you would give every facility to the work of education, I call your attention to this letter in the hope that you may be able to secure its release, for its original purposes, & perhaps its repair or partial repair by the military authorities by whom it has been used.

Please return Gov. Brownlow's letter to me.

Yours Very Truly
Lyman Abbott

To
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

[Written sideways at the bottom of the back page, in OO Howard's hand]
Answered