
2833 8/9/1865

From: A. v Steinwehr

To: My dear General [OO]
Howard

OOH-2777

Wallingford, Con.

Source: Bowdoin

[159, 160]

Wallingford, Con. Aug. 9th 1865

My dear General,

More than a year has passed, since we parted in Lookout Valley; - & much as I regretted the circumstances, which forced me to leave that army; I have always followed with profound interest its subsequent movements, so large & conspicuous a part of which fell to your share.

I have lived, since I returned to the north in complete retirement on our old Yankee farm about 10 miles from New Haven. As soon as I began to doubt, that I should be reassigned to an active command in the field, I resumed my geographical studies & set myself vigorously to work to complete a book, which I had begun before the war, a text-book of comparative Geography on Carl Ritter's principles.

The book is now nearly finished & the maps are in the hands of the engravers. In about 6 or 8 months it may be ready for publication. It will give me much pleasure to send you a copy.

I have written lately to Mr Kennedy the late Superintendent of the Census bureau for a copy of the Census report (Quarto edition); but not receiving a reply, I doubt whether he is still in Wash. Yet I need this report very much, and -(please pardon the hardihood of my request) venture to ask you to procure a copy for me & forward it to me. Of course I do not ask you to give yourself any trouble about it. In fact, unless one of your Aids can get it without the least inconvenience, I do not wish to make the request at all.

I few days since I met Gen'l Underwood at N. York. He looks remarkably well. It is wonderful, that he should have recovered at all; - & I am glad to see that his faithful services are appreciated. How your old command is scattered over the country. Schurz makes critical observations in southern sociology. Who will doubt their profundity? O. Smith is rail-road engineer. Buschbeck is said to be teaching in Philadelphia & I am buried & forgotten on the hillsides of Connecticut. Gen'l Hooker lives comfortably at the Astor House, where I met him a few days since. He looks hale & hearty & if I mistake not, more erect than ever, - "ver inch a General" as Mr. Jenkins once affirmed, & as we all believe willingly.

Give my best regards to your Brother who is doubtless still with you; - to assist you in duties that are unquestionably more delicate & difficult, than agreeable.

How wonderful & complete the collapse of the confederacy has been; & what an aera of prosperity dawns upon the country! But how difficult to fix by laws the social conditions of the two races in the southern states! In the northern states there is at an average one colored person to 83 white inhabitants, -in the late slave states 1 colored to 2 whites. Can society be regulated by the same principles in both sections? And if so, what will be the consequences? But I loose myself in speculations, & have already written more than you may be willing to read. Please give me the pleasure to send me a reply however short.

Every truly yours
A. v Steinwehr

My wife desires to be remembered to you, & sends her best regards.

[Written across the top of the first page in a different hand.]

Answrd

Books sent

2834 8/9/1865

From: J.E. Bryant

To: Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2778

Source: Bowdoin

Office Sub
Commissioner
Freedmens Bureau
Augusta Ga

Commissioner Freedmen's
Bureau

[156]

Office Sub Commissioner Freedmens Bureau Augusta Ga Aug 9th 1865

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard
Commissioner Freedmen's Bureau
Sir -

I have the honor to forward to you at the suggestion of your friend Mr Strickland now in this city a letter written to the Editors of the N.Y. Tribune. The letter will explain itself.

I came South with no expectation of being connected with the freedmen's Bureau. I am not an office seeker. I do not desire to be connected with the Bureau one day longer than I can be a benefit to the cause.

I am a Maine man. I served three years as a Captain in the 8th Maine Infantry. I was at one time a school mate of your brother Charles. If you at any time desire to make inquiries concerning me I respectfully refer you to Rev. Dr. Torsey, President of the Maine Wesleyan Seminary and Female College, with whom I believe you are acquainted.

I should not have taken the liberty to address to you this communication but for the unpleasant position in which I have been in connection with the Freedmen's Bureau which is quite fully explained in my letter to the N.Y. Tribune.

Many of my friends in Maine are readers of the Tribune. I have been assailed by that paper and of course my friends feel a deep interest in all I do. I have not time to explain to each of them the reasons that caused me to do what may seem to them wrong being unacquainted as they are with the condition of these people.

I wish that they shall be informed that I have not forgotten the lessons taught by the good men of our State.

I fear the freedmen among whom I labor will not receive that assistance from the friends at the North that they would receive if those friends had confidence in me, and I fear that the article in the Tribune copied as it no doubt has been into other Northern papers will cause them to place but little confidence in me unless it is satisfactorily answered and that I have attempted to do.

At the same time I do not wish to publish an article that does not meet with your approval therefore I send it to you. If you think it proper I desire that my letter shall be published. If you do not think it best it is not my desire that it should be. I also send herewith an article which was published first in the Southern Cultivator and copied into most of the rebel papers in this State.

You will see that I am assailed at the North for favoring the planter and at the South for favoring the colored man I have intended to do justice to both freedmen and planter.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
J.E. Bryant
Sub Com Freedmen

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Office, Sub. Comr. Freedmens Bureau
Augusta Ga.
Aug 9, 1865

Bryant, J.E.

Sub. Com Freedmen &c.

Forwards at the suggestion of Mr Strickland, letter written to N.Y. Tribune, also slips from Local papers.
(3 enclosures)

[Stamp] Bureau R.F. & A.L. Washington Rec'd Aug 26 1865

2835 8/9/1865

From: John Jones

To: Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2779

(Near) Hampton Va

Washington City

Source: Bowdoin

[156]

(Near) Hampton Va
Aug. 9, 1865

Sir

In the settlement of war ordinary transactions it is usual to commence by ascertaining the facts of the case, and if this is necessary how much more desirable is that this should be the course in the important position which you hold. I would therefore respectfully suggest that you visit Old Point and the neighboring community.

We cannot promise you as many of the creature comforts as at an earlier period but you will find that we know how to be courteous.

You will remember the writer of this when you are reminded of a short interview while you were quartered near his residence in Warrenton N.C. and that he is the father of Thos. M. Jones.

Very respectfully
Your obt svt
John Jones

To
Gen O.O. Howard
Washington City

He was labouring under the <near infraction> of having been whipped when he saw you, this has worn off somewhat. J.J.

2836 8/9/1865

From: John Ealan

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2780

Source: Bowdoin

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

[157, 158]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, Aug. 9th 1865

My dear General:

You have statements from various sources of the quiet progress of the Bureau.

Col. T. telegraphed you in regard to Genl Gresham's declination &c.

Major S. sends you today a N.Y. Herald. An article in it will doubtless impress you anew with the importance of some action for that state - the <outline> of the article is against its own object.

I have asked Col. T. to give you if possible a journalistic synopsis of events.

Doubtless many things which would come in if you were here do not reach us, but all so far goes quietly.

Col. Osborn waits for Col. Fullerton's return.

Genl Fiske asks that Northern Miss. be assigned to him & <Mr.> Courday that the section of La. Now under Col. Thomas be assigned to him. I have said to Col. <Taggart> the cutting off of north Miss. would be decidedly against the grain as the state gets organized & that the La. question can be easily settle when the present crops are gathered and the <trades> & contracts now reached at Vicksburg & Natchez have ended & new ones are to be made.

Mr. Knowlton declines the supervision of Education for the Dist, indeed his physician has prohibited his going South. I am altogether in doubt & the more so as I see that Mr. McPerkins is one of Teachers of Colored Schools under the act of Congress. I wish you would name the man for the place. Today we are going into Campbell Hospital, changes for school rooms &c, all ordered. We are seeking the other rooms needed for the cities. I have been out to Camp Distribution. I am puzzled. The camp buildings &c are good strong - would give cottage accommodations for nearly three thousand people, but where will they find employment? The land around is called barren, the distance from work in the cities is about three miles, but we will do our best.

<I ordered> Mr Shipherds urgent approval. If I am not mistaken you have not been much in the state. Such a visit, under the circumstances would be a labor indeed but it would greatly strengthen your bonds that give the Bureau <Western> sympathies & accomplish also the special object of securing funds for educational purposes. Mr. Tusshird can manage it delicately & efficiently. If you chose you could take the <Lakes> & by more time not tax yourself so much. It would give you a good opportunity to declare your views at length & in a way secure not only wide circulation but approval.

Hope you are resting. Sincerely your friend
John Ealan

2837 8/10/1865 *From:* Henry Heath

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2781

Source: Bowdoin

Office of
The United States
Service Magazine,
540 Broadway,
New York

[161]

Office of
The United States Service Magazine,
540 Broadway,
New York, Augt 10 1865
C.B. Richardson, Publisher
Henry Heath, General Agent

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Dear Sir

In our book "Sherman & his Campaigns", we shall introduce condensed biographical sketches of the Army & Corps Commanders, and for this purpose find that we lack reliable data in regard to yourself.

Will you have the kindness, therefore, to give us such information as you are willing shall be used. An answer at your earliest convenience will greatly oblige us, for the book is now in press.

Very respectfully yours
Henry Heath

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]
New York
Aug. 10th 1865
Heath, Henry
Desires data for book
Ansd.

2838 8/10/1865 *From:* Charles H. Fox

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2782

New Orleans

Source: Bowdoin

[163, 164, 165]

New Orleans August 10 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Dear General

Having had the honor to serve with you and under your orders, I take the Liberty of addressing you, giving you my information concerning the condition of officers in this City particularly the freedmen. I have seen published an order requiring Quartermasters &c to turn over all confiscated and abandoned property to the Freedmans Bureau upon application to Mr Conway in charge of said Bureau in this City. I was informed that the Dwelling Houses both furnished and unfurnished were for Rent to responsible parties, and the proceeds applied to the benefit of Freedman. Having my family here and being in reduced circumstances dependent upon a situation for their support, I obtained a list of said Houses from Capt. Armstrong A.Q.M. for Freedman, and proceeded to make an examination of the same. The following is the result: The best Houses in the City are occupied by "officers" consequently paying "No Rent" and in many instances are only places of Prostitution. Upon the authority of Capt Armstrong I presumed I had a right to visit any House upon his List for which he had receipted for and upon application to those houses I was confronted by an officer a major or a Lieutenant or Pay Master and rudely treated for making the enquiry. To illustrate I called at a House well furnished that should rent at least for One hundred dollars per month, and of sufficient capacity to comfortably accommodate fifty persons, which I found occupied by a Colonel and his Wife and servants, the only occupants. Again at another good house found occupied by a Major and Lieut sole occupants. And so it is all over the City. General permit me to suggest that under the present existing circumstances, I would not give Government One hundred dollars for all the Revenue they will derive from Confiscated Houses for the Freedmans <Beunevides>, and in my opinion it is unjust.

Government is in earnest for the benefit of the Freedmen. Their efforts are Noble, Humane, and Philanthropic and the Amount of Blood and Treasure that has been spent in the great result of Emancipation should not be lost or in vain from the acts of those who are wearing its uniform or holding Commissions under the same. The Freedmen of this section of the Country need all the assistance and protection from the Government they can obtain in promoting Education, Cultivation &c. They have been downtrodden and persecuted long enough for no other reason than God deemed proper to give them a Black Skin, and when I saw published in the Paper the Order assigning you as Commissioner of the Freedmans Bureau of the U.S. I said thank God Government is in "earnest" in this matter. Not only Emancipating this unfortunate race, but providing for their Cultivation by Education thereby preparing them for self Government, and no better guarantee could be given than by your appointment. Again when the Order was published that Rebel property should pay the expense of training the Freedman, I shouted "good" "good". It made the Rebels here look "sorrowful". So many pardons had been granted, so many had their property returned to them that they were buoyant with hope and defiantly declaring publicly that in a short time Louisiana would as heretofore be Governed by Louisianians, and Northern men could have a leave of absence from this City and state.

But General with all your humane and generous efforts the Freedman of this state are in a deplorable condition and need the strong arm of the Government in their behalf. For instance I have resided here about ten months and during that time have carefully observed the political condition of this City. I have united and assisted in Organizing an Republican association in this City the first one created here, have addressed them at a public meeting to a large audience, consequently are prepared to give an opinion based upon close observation. When I first arrived the Rebels and the Copperheads (which are one and the same in principle) determinedly opposed the Free State Constitution, declaring it was an usurpation and they would neither respect or obey it. But the Constitution of 1852 was the only legitimate Constitution. But recently and quite suddenly they are out in praise of the Constitution of 1864, and why! By its provisions there will be an election for Governor, state officers &c next November, and as the Rebels have surrendered and returned home, they will all vote this fall, and thus the Copperhead & Rebels will have a large majority elect all their kind, enact such Laws as will make the condition of the Negro more burdensome than before emancipating. I am reliably informed that in some of the Parishes of this state now, a Union man cannot live one day and that slavery is being carried on as

successfully as before the war and if Congress admits the Delegates this winter and withdraws the military from this section, Nothing has been accomplished by the War.

In conclusion permit me to say that you should place in charge here a man of judgment and <furnip> and one who is not afraid of the Rebels, and has no friends to reward or enemies to punish, one who understands the workings and principles of the Military and is acquainted with order and their interest who being himself Loyal and having served his Country upon the Field can and will deal firmly with the charge reposed in him feeling the importance of the great work assigned to him and heartily and energetically from his duties aiding the Freedman in every loyal manner for the accomplishment of the purpose of the Government at the same time making the effort self supporting by a fund raised in contemplated by the Law of Confiscated property and compelling Rebels to feel that their own conduct and acts had produced the result <thereof> giving to posterity the important lesson that Treason is a crime and must and will be punished. There is enough "Available Confiscated" property here if Judiciously managed to create a large fund.

General I have written plainly and earnestly for I feel the importance of the work and if any part of this Communication appears improper, or an attempt upon my part to give you advice please pardon me as the Animus of this communication is to inform you how I view matters and <here>, and from one who feels honored at having served under your command.

Truly yours
Charles H. Fox

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
New Orleans, La.
Aug. 10th 1865
Fox, Chas H.
States views in regard to matters concerning Freedmen in N.O.
Recd Aug 20 1865

2839 8/10/1865 *From:* H.M. Stinson

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2783

Source: Bowdoin

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

[162]

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, August 10th 1865

Dear General,

Your letter of the 7th reached me yesterday; many thanks for it. Col. Taggart tells me that he has telegraphed to you about Gen. Gresham.

When Maj. Matthews left there was about half of the regulations to be copied in order to have it in duplicate. I was to see that it was done and Col. T. said one of his clerks could copy it, but it has not been completed, not because of negligence but because Colonel Taggart is strongly opposed to having it published in its present shape. He thinks it should be thoroughly revised before being printed so that he decided to wait until Col. Fullerton returned.

On the important subject of marriage, it is silent.

I think that the Colonel was right in delaying the publication but if you desire to have it sent to the printer without change this can be done very quickly.

Col. Fullerton has just arrived, and will send you a note today. Mr & Mrs Markland made their appearance yesterday, and as Col. Osborn is in the mess we are able to fill six chairs.

Gilbreth left Monday morning and Col. Balloch Tuesday. We expect Col. Osborn will start for Florida tomorrow. Nothing heard from Strong lately.

Very Respectfully
H.M. Stinson

2840 8/10/1865

From: Samuel L. Tuttle

To: Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2784

American Bible Society
Bible House Astor Place
New York

Chief of the Bureau of
Refugees, Freedmen &c

Source: Bowdoin

[71]

American Bible Society
Bible House Astor Place
New York Aug 10 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard
Chief of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen &c
Dear Sir:

Your letter of inquiry in relation to the labors of the American Bible Society in connection with Freedmen &c, has been received in this Office; and at the request of the Rev Dr Taylor our Domestic Corresponding Secretary, I write you to day that the officers of this Institution are much gratified that you have given them the opportunity to put your Department in possession of the facts pertaining to this important portion of our work; and that we have accordingly forwarded to you some of our official documents, in which these facts are recorded, for the use of the Bureau over which you have been called to preside.

We would particularly refer you to the following places which we have marked: to wit, Annual Report for 1862 page 33; do for 1863, p 37; do for 1864 p 37; do for 1865 p 62; our circular pamphlet entitle "he American Bible Society and the South"p 3; and a circular just sent out by us called "he Jubilee Year" a part of which, "o the People of the U. States" is from the pen of the Rev Wm Adams D.D. of this city. From the last you will see that this Institution is making the Freed People a very special object of concern during their fiftieth year of it history.

These various references will serve to show you that this Institution has, not a little appreciation of the great responsibilities which divine Providence has devolved upon it in connection with Freedmen and other classes at the South; and that it is the desire and purpose of the Board of Managers to meet all these responsibilities with promptness and fidelity as they shall have the means to do so. In our appointment of Agent to superintend our work in the Southern States, and in the instructions given to our agents there, the Managers, and especially mindful of the classes with which your Department is more particularly concerned; and we have much reason to believe that the various agencies, and instrumentalities which we are establishing in connection with the Bible work at the South, will, in the end, with the blessing of God, eventuate in incalculable good to that entire portion of our land.

I need scarcely assure you, Dear Sir, that you have the earnest sympathy of all the Officers and Managers of the great National Society, in the important work committed to your hands, and that we shall all greatly rejoice to hear, from time to time, of your eminent success in it prosecution.

And while on this subject will you permit the inquiry whether it would be consistent with the authority rested in you as the head of the Bureau, to grant free passes over the national roads at the South for the use of the Agents of the American Bible Society in the prosecution of their official works, in number not to exceed one for each of the States recently in rebellion.

If such an arrangement could be made by you, I assure you it would be very gratifying to the Custodians of this Institution, and very greatly aid them in carrying out their benign, Christian and most liberal intentions towards towards Freedman, and all other classes in the desolated Southern portions of our Country.

With much Christian respect and esteem
Samuel L. Tuttle
Assist Cor Secy Am Bib Socy

For
Rev Dr Taylor
OOH

N.B. Dr Taylor desires me to write to Gen Howard that he sent him a communication on the 26th of June last, and has received no answer.

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

New York City

Aug. 10th 1865

Tuttle Saml. L.

Acknowledges receipt of Genl. Howards letter of inquiry, in regard to the labors of of the Am. Bible Society in connection with the Freedman, and states that he will send some of their documents showing what they are doing.

2841 8/10/1865 *From:* J.T. Champlin

To: General [OO] Howard

OOH-2785

Waterville

Source: Bowdoin

[166]

Waterville
Aug. 10th 1865

General Howard
Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that the Trustees of Waterville College conferred on you the honorary Degree of Doctor of Laws at their meeting yesterday.

I need not say that it gives me great pleasure to be the organ of communicating this fact to you.

I am, Sir,
very truly yours
J.T. Champlin [President of Waterville College, which was renamed to Colby College]

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

Waterville, Maine
August 10, 1865
Champlin, J.T.

Informs Genl Howard that the Trustees of Waterville College, have conferred upon him the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws

2842 8/11/1865 *From:* H.F.T. Merrill

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2786

Portland

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[167, 168]

Portland, 11th Aug. 1865

Dear Sir:

Though formally a stranger, I venture to address you on subject of considerable importance to myself, trusting that the acquaintance which formerly existed between yourself & our family may be some excuse for thus intruding upon your notice.

I am in search of employment, & have been advised to apply to you.

My Father the late Jas. L. Merrill, died in June last, and as he left nothing, my Mother and younger brother are mainly dependent on me for their support.

I graduated at Bowdoin in 1864, & should, had not the condition of my Father's affairs prevented, have commenced at once upon the study of a profession, but was obliged at the time to give up my intentions and provide for my own maintenance, hoping to resume my studies, as I undoubtedly would had my father lived, this coming Autumn. His death however compelled me to again defer them & to provide some means of support for those dependent upon me.

It is has occurred to me that perhaps you could assist me to employment in your department. Should such be the case, any favor in that direction which you may grant me, will be gratefully received & appreciated, by myself, & mother as well.

Respectfully

Yours

H.F.T. Merrill

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Augusta

Aug. 12

P.S. I hope that you will not consider us unfortunate or intrusive. At the time of writing the above I was not aware that my sister Mrs. Hodsdon had written in behalf of her husband, or even that she had any intentions of doing so. As I have written this letter I will send it though I fear I am trespassing on your time & patience.

H.F.T.M.

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

Answered

2843 8/11/1865 *From:* Edward E. Hale *To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-2787 Milton, Mass.

Source: Bowdoin

[169, 170]

Milton, Mass.
Aug. 11, 1865

Gen O.O. Howard, &c &c &c
Dear Sir -

At the request of the Editors of the North American Review I have undertaken to furnish for that journal for October a paper on the Education of the Freedmen.

As you will readily judge, it will be a very great assistance to me, if you will kindly order sent to me a set of your Bulletins, instructions to agents, general orders or printed reports, so far as they may with propriety be made public.

I venture to ask this great favour at your hands therefore hoping I may be able to render some slight service to the Freedmen and to the cause, by my use of them.

As I am an entire stranger to you, I take the liberty of saying that I have been from the first a Vice President of the Educational Commission, a Freedmens aid Society of New England. I am the neighbor and friend of Rev. Mr. Webb, of Boston, who is I think a friend of yours. I believe I am known to all our Massachusetts members of Congress if any of them happen to be in Washington.

I have the honor to be
With great respect
Your obedient Servant
Edward E. Hale

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

Milton Mass.
August 11, 1865
Hale Ed. E.
Requests circulars & regulations may be sent to him.

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

2844 8/11/1865 *From:* Wm Fowler

To: Maj. Genl O. O. Howard

OOH-2788

Source: Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, and
Abandoned Lands,
Washington

[180]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, August 11, 1865.

Maj. Genl O. O. Howard
General,

General Fullerton desires me to forward the enclosed circular for your consideration.

The wording of Circular No. 13 seems to have caused some misunderstanding, and this communication was prepared for the purpose of removing it.

I am General
Very respectfully
Your obt serv't
Wm Fowler
Asst. Adj. Genl.

2845 8/11/1865 *From:* M C Garber

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-2789

Madison, Ind.

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[171, 172]

Madison, Ind. August 11, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard
Washington
Dear General,

I have been unlucky in any services in your command, I hardly know how to write you. I would not, if I did not know that it has all been either my fault or misfortune.

I have just been relieved by Genl. Sherman and ordered to report by letter to the Quartermaster General. General Sherman has given me a very kind letter, acknowledging my services while on his Staff. I would like to have something of the kind from you.

I hardly expect to remain in the Service. My Contract expired with the Rebellion; but if my services can be made useful without serving on the frontiers, I have no objection to remain in the Qr. Mr. Department. Have you any use for me?

Indiana is overrun with Freedmen; particularly the border counties. These need looking after. The Rev. Mr Blythe, a chaplain at the General hospital here, has been spoken of in this connection. He is a good man better qualified for the place than any one I know of. He has been giving the matter some attention, probably has written to you. You can rely upon his statements. Mr Blythe is a zealous, hardworking, christian man, and always a consistent antislavery man. He was so from the first, when I was only a Free Soiler.

The Freedmen in Indiana are in a deplorable condition. At Evansville, in consequence of an outrage committed by one or two colored men, some innocent men of this class have been murdered; and the public prejudice, strong enough before, much increased against them all along the border.

Very respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
/s/ M C Garber

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

Madison, Ind.

Aug. 11 1865

Garber, M.C.

Desires complimentary letter and would like position in Freedmen's Bureau.