
2926 9/10/1865 *From:* Alfred. P. Sears

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2870

Fernandina, Fla.

Chf. Commissioner of
Freedmen's Affairs

Source: Bowdoin

[53]

Unofficial

Gen. O.O. Howard
Chf. Commissioner of Freedmen's Affairs

Fernandina, Fla.
10th Sept. 1865

General,

I take the liberty of sending you a copy of my address to the people in the Pine Woods of Florida.

I beg to invite yr attention to the remarks on pages 18 & 21 that I have marked; they contain some of the results of experience with free negroes.

In addition, it is proper to say that we shall not send north this winter for white hands, but employ black laborers, with white masons brought here from the Eastern states.

I have the honor to be
General
Very Respectfully
Yr obt Srvt
Alfred. P. Sears, Engineer Fort Clinch.

2927 9/10/1865 *From:* J.S. Fullerton

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-2871

Lenox Mass.

Commr. Freedmens Bureau
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[59, 60, 61]

Lenox Mass. Sept 10 / 65

My Dear General,

I am better. My general health has been much improved since I reached Lenox. All owing to large quantities of good, pure country butter and milk that has been at my disposal. If I can remain here a few days longer I think I will be able to say "Richard is himself again!"

When I left Washington I told you that I would be gone about four or five days, but owing the distance that I have traveled, the precarious condition of my health and other circumstances "too numerous to mention". I will not be able to keep my word. I also consider it to be my "Official duty to remain here a few days longer, as I have found several young ladies from Boston and other parts of New England who are quite ignorant of the condition and wants of the "Freedmen" of the South. They are anxious for light, and I believe that I am the only person here that can illuminate the subject. For the good of the cause I must correct false impressions and try to direct the bewitching lassies in the path of duty. Some of them have been sewing for the freedmen, and if all information that I have been able to gain is correct, the work that they have done is more than useless. Gauze under shirts, hem stitched handkerchiefs with letters worked in the corners and paper collars are very poor articles for field hands, you know. I think it would be very advisable for me to remain in Lenox until the latter part of this week in hopes of meeting the aforesaid charitable young ladies in a sewing circle, then and there to give them my views of the wants of our constituents. If you think otherwise please telegraph me. I am living just above the telegraph office, and can hear the tick of every message received – a dispatch would be received soon. After you receive this letter I will listen to said ticks with fearful interest; they will sound to me as sickening almost as the rap of a coffin hammer –not that I do not wish to get back to the Office in Washington, and the house on the hill, but on account of my health and of the good that I may do here for our cause.

It is really refreshing to be where the people are not only patriotic, but where also they do not turn up their noses and become nauseated by the person of an A.A.G. of a "egro Bureau"- as our friends in the south facetiously call it.

What do you think of the propriety of my remaining here until next Friday for the purpose of delivering a lecture (free lectures) on that night in the Town Hall – subject "Views and Experiences of an Officer who has worked for three months in the Freedmens Bureau".

I have just counted my clean shirts and find that I have enough to last until the latter part of the week, so do not order me back on account of my wardrobe.

I am gaining strength for the fall campaign, as well as useful information, amongst the hills of Massachusetts, but I do not wish to remain here on that account alone. If I am needed at once in Washington, please let me know and I will leave on the next train after receiving your despatch – otherwise I will remain here until the last of the week.

Truly your friend
J.S. Fullerton

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Commr. Freedmens Bureau
Washington D.C.

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

Lennox Mass.
Sept. 10, 1865
Fullerton J.S.

A.A.G.
Friendly letter

2929 9/11/1865

From: Horace Greely

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2872

Office of the Tribune,
New York

Frem's Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

[98]

Office of the Tribune,
New York, Sept. 11, 1865

Dear Sir:

The bearer, Rev. G. O. Glavis, of Newark, N.J. Has been throughout the late struggle a most devoted patriot and an earnest judicious friend of the colored Race. He would gladly serve the cause of Nationality and Humanity in your Bureau, and I commend him to your favorable regard as one who in any capacity will <render> your <> and brave worthy and faithful.

Yours,
Horace Greely

Gen. O.O. Howard
Frem's Bureau

2930 9/11/1865 *From:* E. Whittlesey

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2873

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

[62, 63]

Brunswick Sept 11, '65

Dear General

I reached home last Tuesday, having delayed a day in N.Y. - another in Boston, to work a little for the Bureau. In N.Y. I did not succeed, but in Boston our friends promised \$1000. for building a school house in Raleigh. I think the N.Y. people will do the same.

My family are all well except George, whose lameness has so much increased that I shall be obliged to take him to Philadelphia. And as he must have his mother's care, I shall take her & the rest of the children. This breaking up will keep me very busy, & may delay me two or three days beyond my leave; but I shall make every effort to be in Wash. by the 20th.

The College tired of my long absence, has quietly dropped me overboard, having declared my place vacant, & then filled it by electing Chamberlain. It is all right, tho' it throws me out of employment when our Bureau breaks up, or my Regt. is mustered out.

I hear nothing from Raleigh but I presume our work is going on as usual.

With regards to all the Bureau.

Yours truly,
E. Whittlesey

2931 9/11/1865 *From:* Fitzhugh Lee

To: Oliver O Howard

OOH-2874

Ravensworth, Fairfax
Co. [VA]

Source: Bowdoin

[186]

Ravensworth, Fairfax Co. [VA] Sept 11, 65

My dear Oliver O Howard

Four years of war rolling away leaves you I ascertain at the head of a piece of furniture known as 'Freedmens Bureau', and rolls me out too as a "eaceful citizen" of the "est government the world ever saw" Our paths widely dimmed, at one time, at this day are once more within striking distance –not that I am going to do any more now than strike you with surprise at the reception of this letter, though you know Oliver I always could throw you down. I am also told you are in charge of all abandoned lands & taking advantage of our proximity I write to say that my father has a few hundred acres near here known as "airfax Station" and which has been in possession and constant occupation of your troops since the commencement of the war save an interval of a few days. Lately the troops had all been removed & when arrangements were about to be made by us to retake it, we are informed that it will probably be taken to locate a portion of your big bureau on the choice having been limited to 3 places in the County & my place being one of the 3, and rather the favorite.

Now I write to you Mr Howard to say there are just 3 trees left on the place & if you put the dear little blessed duckys on it, they would have a most uncomfortably hot time and get terribly sun burnt. Still if it is the best place why go ahead I shant complain. Sir I ready think if capital punishment is resorted to, the Lees ought to commence the hanging "ne of whom I am which" as Fran use to say about the relief at West Point.

I hope you will receive this (& I know you will) in the spirit it is written. Political differences are not allowed to affect my private feelings, especially towards old Army friends.

Hoping soon ot hear from you

I am

yrs sincerely

Fitzhugh Lee [USMA Class of 1856]

My address is to the care
of John Dangerfield Alex. Va

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

Ravensworth, Fairfax

Sept. 11th 1865

Lee, Fitzhugh

Friendly Letter

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 18 1865

2932 9/12/1865 *From:* J. H. Roberts

To: Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2875

Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[64]

Boston Sept 12th 1865

Maj Gen. Howard
Dear Sir

In behalf of the Committee for the Old Bay State Lectures, I would invite you to deliver a Lecture in our course. These Lectures are under the auspices of a Temperance Society although not Temperance Lectures. We had a very successful course last season and by them we are enabled to do a vast amount of good. We pay one hundred dollars (\$100.) I should be pleased to have you speak Oct 19th or Nov 16. Please let me hear from you by return mail as it is time our tickets were out. For the character of our Society we would refer you to the Hon H Hamblin.

Yours Respectfully
J. H. Roberts
Chairman of Com.
81 Haverhill St.

P.S.

If you speak for us please give your subject. The Lectures will be in Tremont Temple, on Thursday Evening of each week.

J.H.R.

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

Boston Mass

Sept 12, 1865

Roberts, J.H.

Chairman of Committee

Inviting Genl Howard to deliver a lecture in Boston.

[Stamp] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 14 1865

2933 9/12/1865 *From:* Rich'd Delafield

To: Major Genl. O.O.
Howard, U.S.A.

OOH-2876

Engineer Department
Washington

Chief of Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, etc.
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[66]

Engineer Department
Washington Sept 12th 1865

Major Genl. O.O. Howard, U.S.A.
Chief of Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, etc.
Washington D.C.
General

I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th inst. in favor of conferring a Captaincy, by Brevet, on Lieut. O.J. Ernst, Corps of Engineers and to inform you that I have forwarded it, with concurrent remarks, to the War Department and recommended the subject to the favorable considerations and action of the Secretary of War.

Respectfully Your obed Servt
Rich'd Delafield
Genl & Chief Engineers

[Written in pencil on the back page in a different hand.]
Sladen
Private business

[Written in ink on the back page in a different hand.]
Engineer Dept.
Washington Sept. 12, 1865
Delafield, Rich'd.
Genl. & Chief Engineer

Acknowledges receipt of Communication of 9th inst. in favor of conferring a Captaincy by Brevet on Lieut O.H. Ernst, Corps of Engineers, & states he has forwarded it with concurrent remarks, and recommended it to the favorable consideration of Secy of War.

2934 9/12/1865

From: H.L. Dox

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2877

Source: Bowdoin

Freedmen's Aid
Commission,
of the State of Michigan
No. 28 Larned Street,
West
Adrian

Commissioner of Bureau for
Freedmen

[67, 68]

Freedmen's Aid Commission,
of the State of Michigan
No. 28 Larned Street, West
Gov. Geo. Duffield, D.D., Pres't.
Rev. H.L. Dox, Cor. Sec'y & Gen. Agt.
David Preston, Esq., Treasurer
Adrian, Sept. 12th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Commissioner of Bureau for Freedmen
My Dear Sir,

Some time since I made a brief statement in writing which was placed in the hands of Mrs. L.S. Haviland, who has acted efficiently in behalf of our Commission, and is especially interested in our "Home", which bears her name. That statement was intended to be placed at your disposal, and to give you some idea of our general operations and of the design of our "Home" in particular. Mrs. Haviland has informed me that she was successful in obtaining an interview with you while at Chicago, and that you were kind enough to look over the documents placed in your hands with attention and to speak of our efforts favorably. I am thus encouraged to trouble you with a few things more, though I will be studiously considerate of your time. I am anxious to obtain information by which our plans may be shaped so as to harmonize with the general movement.

Will the consolidation of the different Commissions involve a cessation of their distinctive operations, so that in organization and action they will become one? If so – and it is undoubtedly the true policy – how will the machinery be worked, by the Bureau, or by the Commission, as reconstructed? In other words, what is to be the relation between such organization, and the Bureau, which proposes to employ it in carrying out the idea of relieving the Freedmen?

For about two years I have toiled for these poor people by night and by day, though I have never been south to see them. I have longed to look upon their condition myself that I might more intelligently, and perhaps more forcibly plead for them, but I have never felt that I could spare time or means from the great work. My energies have been overtaxed, and my health is much impaired. My efforts must be changed or suspended. Can I not render some service and at the same time make a tour of observations, under some appointment of yours? You are troubled no doubt greatly with such applications. A temporary engagement is all I contemplate.

Wising you all success, I am yours truly –H.L. Dox

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

Adrian Mich.

Sept 12, 1865

Dox H.L.

Gen agt F.A.C. Michigan

Asks what is to be the relation between this Bu of R F & A L & aid commissions & such organizations.

Hold for Gen.

Letter sent 20th Sept.

F.W.G.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 19 1865

2936 9/13/1865

From: E. Mc. Catlett

To: Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2878

Near Catletts Station

Source: Bowdoin

[75, 76]

Near Catletts Station
Sept 13th / 65

Genl Howard,
Dear Sir,

Mr Catlett addressed a letter to you several weeks ago, asking your advice in a matter of much importance to us, which I fear has not been submitted to you. It reached your Hd Quarters as we afterward learned through the politeness of Major Stinson, during your absence.

We are anxious to obtain some recompense frn the government for injuries sustained during the war from the U.S. Troops, and know that it will be almost useless to apply without the assistance of some Influential friend. I feel it is taking a great liberty to call on you in this matter, but as your Corps was encamped here longer than any other Command at one time, a good deal was necessarily destroyed by it, and you also had an opportunity of witnessing our disinterestedness during the contest. Testimony to this effect from one in your position would of great assistance and anything more you can suggest will be gladly received. Our circumstances are so much <[CHECK ORIGINAL - tape on page 2]> that any indemnity we can obtain will be most acceptable. I have hesitated to call on you knowing how much occupied you must be with business, and at one time determined to go down and talk with you about it, but found it so exceedingly inconvenient to leave home. I wish very much you could see Mr Catletts letter, perhaps Major Stinson still has it.

Nothing would give us more pleasure than to see you at our house, could you not arrange it, so as to come? The distance in the cars is very short, and you would find our mountain breezes very refreshing. Mr Catlett and Lottie join heartily in the invitation, the latter still retains a devoted remembrance of you. With sincere regard, and

Highest Respect
Yours,
E. Mc. Catlett

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

Catletts Station, Va.

Sept. 13, 1865

Catlett, Mrs. E. Mc.

Desires assistance in obtaining indemnification for losses during the war.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.I. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 16 1865

2937 9/13/1865 *From:* Geo. T. Balch

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2879

Charleston Arsenal
Charleston S.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[69]

Charleston Arsenal
Charleston S.C. Sept 13, 1865

My dear General,

Since my arrival here some weeks ago, a case connected with the business of your bureau has come under my notice, which from its nature has enlisted my sympathy and on which I desire to say a few words with a view of calling your attention particularly to it.

Mr Charles H Bailey is at present a clerk in the office here, and his younger brother is at work in the armorers shop cleaning arms. These two young men, now aged 19 & 18 respectively were orphans at the opening of the war, and living on the estate left them (& 2 sisters) by their Father on Edisto & Wadmallow Islands near this city, which estate of course was in the hands of their guardians. In Nov 1861 upon an order from the rebel authorities, the[y] left their home, and have now returned to it. On their reaching the age of 16, both were conscripted in the rebel army and served as privates un til after the surrender of Lee & Johnson.

As soon after the disbanding of these armies as he could get here Mr Charles Bailey came to this city, not only without money, but with only a few rags on his back ad almost without a relation or friend. He at once took the oath of allegiance and with the determination of earning his living with his own hands and unmindful of the precept and example of many of his old associates, who were too proud to do so, he set about seeking employment. This he finally obtained in the Commissary Dept. In this city, in a very humble position, where the work was very hard, and the pay very small. So hard was the work for so delicate a young man (being very small & slight) and so disagreeable the associates whom he was forced to be with, that he sought employment elsewhere, and hearing immediately that men were being hired here, he sought work, of any kind from Capt Jeb Grau 54th Mass, who then had charge of this post. Finding him to be a man of intelligence and refinement, with a good education, and satisfied of the sincerity of his loyalty, Capt G. took him as a clerk and he has been here in that capacity for some three months.

I have made myself thoroughly acquainted with his case and have had frequent conversations with him to elicit his views of his future prospect and position. Brought up like all the young men of his class in this state, to look upon labor as dishonorable, he now expresses his determination to make his way in the world by his own exertions and <[CHECK ORIGINAL tape page 2]> the error and folly of the principles which have been inculcated heretofore, & which too many of his associates yet cling to. He is now nobly grappling with misfortune, utterly without resources except his daily pay here (1.70 per day) and with his two sisters of 17 years, almost entirely dependent on him, because, altho they desire to they cannot as yet earn anything, he is animated with the wish to retrieve his fortune and do it with the work of his own hands.

At my suggestion he has recently stated his case regarding the condition of the estate left himself and his brother and sisters by his Father, in an official letter to your Bureau, which has been duly forwarded through General Saxton's Office. To that paper I wish to call your attention, and to request that as a favor to an old friend you will give it an attentive perusal. I do not propose to discuss the events of the case, as that is a matter exclusively for your jurisdiction, except to say, that to me it seems wrong to hold these minors accountable for the forced abandonment of their property and for their forcible detention in the rebellion.

But be that as it may, the main object I have in view in writing is to bear testimony to the noble manner in which these young men, are bearing their misfortune & to show how truly they accept the result of the war. In my opinion it is to such men, young men growing up with the regeneration of the state, that we are to look for a successful reorganization of society, labor and the rebuilding of the material interests of the south, and by every means in our power should they be encouraged. Let us visit all the penalties of the law of confiscation on those bitter, unrelenting, rebels who have encouraged their country men in their rebellion from first to last, such men as Freuholm, Ripley & hundreds of others here, who though anxious for pardon are as defiant and unrepentant

as ever - but to such as these young men, who have undertaken with the sweat of the brow to sustain the dignity of honest labor - in the state of South Carolina, let us lend a helping hand - and if a pint is to be strained do it for them. And in such hands we may safely leave the good of the state.

I may add as an evidence of Mr Bailey's personal popularity among the negroes who used to work on the estate that many of them have been here to offer him their services, and hope to work for him if he can regain the land. I have applied for a leave of absence with a view of visiting Wash'n to see about the acceptance of my resignation and shall then take the opportunity of seeing you further on this subject.

I remain very truly yours

Geo. T. Balch [USMA Class of 1851]

2938 9/13/1865 *From:* O. H. Howard

To: Maj Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-2880

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div. Gulf
New Orleans La.

Source: Bowdoin

[77]

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Div. Gulf
New Orleans La.
Sept 13th 1865

General,

In common with the remainder of the officers of the Signal Corps U.S.A. I expect to be mustered out of the service.

When I become a civilian can you give me a position under the Bureau of Freedmen Refugees & Abandoned Lands? Or, can I be assigned to duty in your Bureau and be thus retained in the service?

I have the honor to be General
Very Respectfully
Your obt servt
O. H. Howard [Ocran H. Howard]
Bvt Maj & C.S.O.
Mil Div Gulf

Maj Gen'l O.O. Howard
Commissioner

2939 9/13/1865 *From:* Th. J. Wood

To: Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2881

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Central
District,
Department of Arkansas
Little Rock, Ark.

[78, 79, 80]

Headquarters Central District,
Department of Arkansas
Little Rock, Ark., Sept 13th, 1865

My dear General:

I tried to open communication with you when I was at Green Lake in Texas, but when my letter reached Washington you were absent, and it was answered by one of your aides, Capt Stinson.

What great events have occurred since we parted nearly eleven months since at Gaylesville in Ala! The 4th Corps returned to Tennessee to look after Mr Hood, and you went back to Atlanta, to commence thence soon afterward the great modern Anabasis. Since we separated the <armed> part of the rebellion has been crushed, and the work of settling the country into a peaceful and normal condition and the dispensation of rewards have been inaugurated. It is of the dispensation of promotion by brevet that I propose to write to you this evening. I write to ask that you will give me the friendly assistance of your high official position and influence in a matter which I feel vitally touches my professional reputation.

<Lately> the Government has, with very few exceptions so far as I am informed, conferred two brevets, in the regular army, on all officers of the regular army who have been General of Volunteers. Beside my own case, I have heard of no exception to the rule of giving two brevets except in the case of officers who are already Brigadiers in the regular army, and who therefore, as the law now stands, could receive but one brevet, that of Major Genl. On my arrival at this place a few days since from Texas I found awaiting me a notification of my promotion as a Brigadier General, by brevet, in the regular army.

I hold that this promotion is no fit, permanent recognition of my rank in our provisional or war army, nor of the services I rendered in suppressing the rebellion. First, because I am a Major General of Volunteers, and secondly because during the whole war I exercised the command of a Major General, - (even when I was only a Brigadier,) and fought it successfully through some of our most important battles. But I will not be guilty of the egotism of reciting the history of my services to you. We were comrades in some of the most interesting parts of the war, and you are entirely familiar with the record of my services. I will content myself with remarking that I feel that I can justly claim, without exposing myself to the charge of egotism, that a brevet as a Brigadier General in the regular army is not a fair recognition of my services, and that the only fair, permanent recognition of them that could now be bestowed would be a brevet as a Major General in the regular army.

I claim further that as the Government has established the rule of giving two brevets whenever possible - (and in my case it is possible, for I am only a Colonel in the regular army), as a permanent token of the estimation of the Government of the services of officers of the regular army, holding commissions as General officers of volunteers, in the suppression of the rebellion, I am entitled to the benefits of the rule. Not to give me the benefit of the rule is to make an unjust, injurious, and invidious distinction to my prejudice. I am willing to submit the record of my services during the war to the most rigid professional scrutiny, feeling well assured that they have at all times come fairly up to a high <coverage> of the services of every class of General officers in the army.

Being on duty in Washington you have more facilities for aiding me than any other professional and personal friend to whom I could apply, and I therefore earnestly request that you will bring the matter to the notice of the Honorable Secretary of War and his Excellency, the President, and if necessary lay this matter before Genl Grant, with a view to having the inequality, to call it by the mildest name, with which I have been treated remedied.

I am emboldened to make this request by the remembrance of the generous and hearty appreciation and

approval which you ever extended to my services as my commander, and the kindness and cordiality you ever displayed to me as an associate and friend. Let my hear from you fully in regard to this matter.

I left Texas about three weeks since, having been assigned by Genl Orders, No 130, from the War Dept to duty in the Department of Arkansas and The Indian Territory.

Wishing you much success in the important and arduous position which you now hold,
I am, Genl, very truly
your friend,
Th. J. Wood [USMA, Class of 1845]

To:
Major Genl O.O. Howard

P.S.
In New Orleans, on my way hither from Texas, I met your assistant Comr of Freedmen for that state. I had a long conversation with Genl Gregory and gave him all the informatino desired frm my former service in Texas, as well as many suggestions which he though would be useful to him.
W.

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

Little Rock

13th Sept / 65

Wood, Maj Gen. T. J.

Friendly letter.

Also asks assistance in getting promoted to MG by brevet in US Army

Not entered in. LB.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 28 1865

ANS Oct 3, 1865.

2940 9/13/1865 *From:* J.N. Morris

To: Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-2882

Washington City

Source: Bowdoin

[81]

Washington City Sept 13th 1865

Maj. Genl O.O. Howard

Sir

Will you be kind enough to answer the following interrogatories

1st What is the average number of contrabands receiving rations from the Government at Quincy Illinois?

2d What has been and is now the average monthly cost of said rations?

3d Who and how many persons have been and are now engaged in and about issuing said rations, and superintending said contrabands, who are paid by the Government, and what has been or is the average compensations paid, and the gross amount thereof, to such person or persons?

4th What has been the gross amount of cost to the Government of said contrabands at Quincy?

Your early reply will oblige me.

Respectfully

J.N. Morris

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

Washington City

[Written upside down] Sept 14 1865

Sept 13, 1865

Morris, J.N.

Asks within questions concerning the cost to Government of subsisting Contrabands at Quincy Ill.

2941 9/13/1865 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2883

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[624]

Washington D.C.
Sept. 13. 1865

Dearest,

I am alone this evening, Col. And Mrs Markland & Mr Alvord (who now lives with us) went to Balto. This morning. Gen Strong dined out. Gen Fullerton is in Mass. and Sladen and Stinson have gone to see Artemus Ward. I am really homesick and half in mind to start off to meet you at Augusta. The weather is warm, but not a member of our household has an ailment and I think there is very little sickness in Washington. I believe you have fixed the day two week from tomorrow on which to start. I would by all means ask Wm Merrick, if he would not like to accompany you to Phila. I would then meet you there.

I have sent to try & get Wash's wife, if I succeed I shall send on with her some one who will bring on the pony.

I got your letter of last Sunday and feel badly that you are not well. I hope it is not that prostrating attack, from "carrying trunks" & c up stairs, and poor little Chancy's cough urges you to hurry to papa, who will help him cough easy and Jamie too. The sea trip would do them good even if they were all sick, if mamma did not jump overboard. Why don't you run down to Uncle Edwards and let him take you over to the Islands, be gone three days with Chancy & Jamie. It would take up their attentions. Let Mrs Jackson do it. She could be gone four days with them! I am glad you have secured the good <American> Emma. We can easily make room. Only hurry darling, & even Augusta drains you with sickness & Washington beckons with husband & father & health. The weather is warm but beautiful; we had a nice shower this evening. Do you not want some more money before you leave? I cannot find any place that suits so well as this. We can keep here my horses, Guy's pony and the carriage by adding a little shed to the barn between it and the fence.

I found the Sec. Of War away when I returned to Washington and he has not come back yet. I have had more frequent interviews with the President and am quite apprehensive, that the freedmen's rights will not be cared for so much as I could wish. Yet the President is cordial to me and so are his household officials (a test of good will).

I don't think you ought to delay a day beyond your time fixed and do not believe there is one particle of danger from this place. It will be plenty cool I think before your arrival. Col. Markland will start for California the first of October and may take his wife to be gone two months. She wants to go with him, but he thinks she had better not. It seems queer that mother should be kept at Leeds on a place that they ask less than three thousand dollars for when I have to pay almost as much as that for rent. I found a house in Georgetown that suited me better for two thousand - four hundred dollars cheaper but now I only pay 300 dollars per quarter 100 per month for my part, so that my commutation allowance more than covers it. When a part of the hyoung men leavfe us still it will be better than the change. Then I think it will be esier for you here.

Give much love to Guy, Gracie, Jamie & Chancy. Papa bears them on his heart. God bless & keep you & send you on to me. I think I shall go to Richmond next week. Harry seems to be quite well now though he coughs. Mrs Markland sends her love to you. Col. & Mrs M have just returned. I do hope you are well and that this will find you well. If Wm Merrick cannot comem with you I will meet you in New York. My kind regards to Mrs Jackson.

Lovingly
Otis