227

Wheeling West Virginia
Feb 27th 1865.

Maj Genl O. O. Howard.
Dear Sir.

I feel confident you will excuse the great liberty I take in addressing you when I explain my motives, Mrs Dunlap my sister being absent I am forced to take the liberty of addressing you myself. There is a prospect of a vacant cadetship to the U. S. M. A. at West Point from the "Second Congressional District" (Col Latham). There is a notice in the paper this mor-

nings paper to the appointee to I report before the 17th of Oct or there will be a vacancy. From what Genl. Dunlap said I infered the President half promised me the next vacancy. Allow me Sir to offer you my sincere thanks for your efforts in my behalf. And whether successful or not in getting an appointment ~~I~~ ~~will~~ ~~the~~ I shall always remember the name of Genl. Howard with gratitude.

I remain with much respect your humble servant

A. Paul C. Mitchell

Wheeling Sept 27th 1865.

Maj Genl O O Howard.

Wheeling Mexico.
27 Sept 1865.

Mitchell A. P.

other arrangements in getting appointed cadet at West Point.

Answered 30th
Rec'd Sept. 30, 1865

The Intelligencer.

CAMPBELL & M'DERMOT,
EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

THURSDAY MORNING, SEPT. 28.

UNION TICKET.

State Senate.

GEN. I. R. DUVAL.

House of Delegates,

COL. WM. B. CURTIS.
JACOB HORNBROOK.
JOSEPH BELL.

THERE is a vacancy in the West Point cadetship in the Second Congressional district of this State, (Hon. Geo. R. Latham's,) as we are informed from Washington. The appointee must report at West Point on or before the 17th of October.

NO. 28.

Insurance.

IRE, MARINE & INLAND INSURANCE

NAN BE OBTAINED—UPON THE MOST
reasonable terms in any of the following
ompanies, representing in the aggregate

CASH CAPITAL AND ASSETS (OVER)

$9,500,000.

IOME INSURANCE CO. OF NEW YORK.

ash Capital, all paid in	$2,000,000 00
" Assets 1st January, 1865	1,687,001 90
	$3,687,001 90

Nett assets exceeding those of any other
ompany doing Fire business in the United
States.

Washington 154

Sept 27/65

My dear General:

I came here the day after you had gone, & must leave tonight — just before you return. And now they frighten me with the possibility of your undertaking a long Southern tour before I can return again.

Jam meeting & think that the star from the southern cross had better come to Washington — I feel safe, so upon consider this about this —

Let me entreat you

not to do this last.

I have already written

you of the meeting of

the full Board of Com-

missioners at Phila on

Wednesday & Thursday

Oct. 11th & 12th. No meeting

during the next 12

months will be of equal

moment to our work &

to yours. For your absence

what could compensate.

For there & then are to be discussed in the full Board the probabilities of the freedman's future, by men of the largest information & shrewdest sagacity, who after interchanging opinions will determine a line of policy for the seat

from it I do not know if you can get no that building in 14th St, it will be a great loss which

Washington Sept 22

organization (as it is supposed to be) which has undertaken to represent the philanthropy & Christianity of the entire country towards the ex-slave.

Shipherd O.R.

No answer required

What can such a convention do without your constant presence at all its sessions? Can you safely leave them to ignorance of your views & preferences?

And then, we desire to make no public demonstration until your official circular is ready, recognizing our organization & defining its relations to the Bureau & the Government. Give us your hand for a fair start, & then you shall set out on your journey with our heartiest God-speed.

Faithfully yours — Shipherd.

150

Beaufort S. C.
Sept. 24 1865

Dear Brother

Arriving last evening after a pleasant voyage I found Gen. Saxton all packed up and off for Charleston at 10 P.M.

He talks a little discouraged about the loss of the lands & the property in C. (which he expects to relinquish). But he refuses to give up the lands on the Is. which have been distributed in small lots to the Freedmen & the title confirmed. I trust these pledges will be upheld. Let the matter be deferred till Congress meets, & I am sure a permanent title will be given to the actual settlers on these islands.

It will not do to deceive the Freedmen thus. It is wrong.

P.S. Write a cheerful letter to mother when you can — I feel much for her. Keep the mind! Well, bye.

Gen. S. thinks things will work well in Georgia. He has just returned from Augusta. The murder of those two officers was a terrible thing. I wish we had a Department Commander in S.C. like Steadman. Returned Rebel soldiers (I learn from a Col. of a Regt. just from the interior) lounge about the hotels, drinking, chewing tobacco & drinking when they can get liquor and they are perfect desperadoes. The murderer of one of those officers for whom the Col. of the Regt. offered $10,000 reward rode up to the Hotel just after the troops had left there ~~and~~ with three revolvers on his person – one in his hand and declared to the Colonel that he was the man for whom he had offered the reward & dared him to take him – several of those desperadoes

sitting on the Hotel piazza
started up & said they were the
friends of that man - all armed
and the Colonel was helpless.

Gen. S. says Gov. Perry is
no such a man as Johnson of
Georgia - I intend to go & see
Perry & then I will write you.
He is certainly behind the age but
ahead of South Carolina, I think, even
now & this is hopeful.

Surgeon De Witt talks discouragingly
all the time - seems to be a man
to do everything one way, Regulation
way, & if that fails seems to have
no other alternative - Gen. S.
now feels sorry he said go to C.
don't relish breaking up his home proba-
-bly - But I think it wise. I
am glad you are coming down
in person. Gen. S. (tell Gen. Fre-
-derick) says he has sent the reports
as far as attainable - the one about

funds went by last steamer.

Maj. Taylor A.A.G. goes North on 30 days Leave & you might use his name if you think proper as one ~~on~~ to be mustered out & get Ketchum in his place. Capt. K. is too valuable to lose. I hear more about Taylor's colored mistress for whom he has provided a house here paying a year's rent —

I hope you will not have granted the transportation to Redfield as Gen. Saxton's Supt. for Gen. S. has countermanded that & selected one for each state — evangelical & highly satisfactory — I think my chaplain Noble (Congregationalist & formerly Teacher High School at Augusta Me.) will be the Supt. for S.C.

All my Regt. remaining here at B. have learned to read — have had 4 hours schooling a day of late — chaplain Noble superintending but teaching chiefly by a colored man — in a large tent furnished by the Q.M.

I fear you will not have time to read it but I have much

more to write – Two Companies at Paris Island have been taught by one of the Sergeants. They (the Regt.) have just fifty five thousand dollars ($55,000) in the Beaufort Savings Bank – Is not this a lesson for white spendthrifts and a good example for all poorest black men?

Devens commands the Dept. in Gillmore's absence. I do wish the latter would not return. But God will order all for the best.

The house I am in (I go to Charleston in a day or two) belonged to Dr. Sow's, deceased. His heirs are here to claim it – Was sold for taxes more than two years ago – Now in Capt Sow's hands for the Bureau – Must it revert to the heirs and be lost to the Bureau?

My Cook, Aunt Sallie Jones (Colored) thinks she has claim upon the property here for two reasons: Viz:

1st She is a daughter of said Jones — 2nd He was the father of her daughter, now living.

Will the U.S. Gov^t in the face of these facts, with eyes open, continue to incur the displeasure of Almighty God by withholding simple justice from this soul-crushed woman? She is intelli-gent and morally capable if not already (as maybe) possessing a high christian character. Would she, and bountifully & charitably dispense the riches her father wrongfully accumulated? But these are only speculations — idle perhaps. They deal with facts abhorrent to all the better feelings of human nature.

Liberator people are clamorous for their property — even those not pardoned. Let somebody — say Harry — write of your Court.

I must tell you about Gen. Seymour who came down on steamer with me. He returns to his battery as Captain – rather cutting to his sensitive nature. He seems a man of much more than usual culture. Has travelled in Europe & profited by it in taste & information. I fear is a little away morally, tho' he says his father is a Methodist Clergyman. He says he himself was always an abolitionist! & they have mixed him up with Govr Seymour & many regard him a Democrat which he never was.

Is terribly bitter against Saxton says the latter is dishonest – a liar & he can prove it – I am led to fear there is truth in what he told but Saxton may have been purified by the Holy Ghost since Seymour

knew of these sinful damp.
I would not for the world
talk so harshly about any human
being as Seymour did against
Sexton. But Seymour has
a high sense of honor, seemingly,
in most things & seems above
all things to hate lying.

Dr. Wakefield in charge of Freedmen's
Hospital here has just been in to see me.
He ~~confirms~~ confirms what Dr. De Witt had told
me, that the Commissary Dept. has cut off
the rations for his hospital – This is
terrible! What is to be done? – He is
obliged to turn off dying patients, & to
break up the Hospital – How is this that
the Medical Dept. by Circular 14 agree
to supply everything else & the Comy Dept.
cannot everything by cutting off all food?
I will go to see Gen. Devens about it
tomorrow. Gen. Saxton asked for Capt Read
as C. S. Why has he not been assigned? If
he is not another should be sent at
once and Col. Bullock had (the bloodmen) one in view.

I should not write in this way if it were
not important for your attention – Your affectionate brother
C. H. Howard

Dayton Ga
Sept 27th/65

Maj Gen O O Howard
Chief Freedmen's Bureau
Washington D C

Genl

In view of the conflicting interpretations placed upon orders on the subject & the different opinions of the different local authorities I have been induced for my own satisfaction & that of various others in this locality to request if not inconsistent with your established course on such subjects an answer to the following questions

I In the event of a the servants of Freedman (for many years slave) becoming indebted to you on account of a superfluity of hands - incapacity to feed him - objectionable conduct on his part or any other reason, are you compelled to retain him contrary to your wishes until the 1st of March 1866 or can you discontinue employing him at your option?

II In the event of a Freedman leaving your employment whether by voluntary agreement between the parties or contrary to his employers wishes, are you not at liberty to refuse

him permission to return whenever he
desires to do so? Yes.

III In case he should return & endeavour to
remain upon your place contrary to your
inclination, is it not the duty of the Military
authorities to forcibly remove him if there is
no military force at hand — may not the
Civil authorities remove him & in case of
both these means failing are you not at
liberty to protect yourself, ? If a man forces himself upon you
IV In cases of stealing on the part of
Freedmen, if there should be no military
force at hand, is it not advisable
to try such offenders before the Civil Tribu-
nals & if convicted punish them according
the laws of the State, ? They can be allowed to testify as other people
V In event of all the Efficient portion
of the Freedmen (for many your slaves) have
left your Country to your wishes, leaving the
whole set of Chargeables, their wives, children
&c. are you not at liberty to discontinue
the support of persons whose natural
protectors have deserted them & rendered
their support, in most cases a grievous

burden to the ~~parents and are only recently called upon~~ women have been kept for hundreds practicable? ? very frequently they are not them women & children.

157

VI. If we are required to keep them which we wish it or not, what means are available to secure the proper amount of labor and obedience on their part? sufficient compensation? ? they can be obliged to keep the matter contracts.

VII. When required to keep them Contrary to our own inclinations are we also required to Compensate them or not & if so in what terms & are not the support of the Chargeables be allowed as an offset against the labor of the Effecient, to be deducted from their wages?

Satisfactory information on these points would Earnestly desired by the most intelligent of our Citizens for the proper regulation of their Conduct according to Law & for the Solution of Questions Constantly arising in our intercourse with what was formerly the Slave population & Economy that such information could more certainly be obtained from some State Less than Elsewhere the foregoing questions are respectfully

Submitted for your Consideration

As soon as answer or Condement is respectfully solicited

Direct to

Edward R. Baird
Laytons Landing
Rappahannock River
Essex Co Va
Via Baltimore & Steamer Matilda

I do not
so answer as
yet
Mr.

Lay this Landing
27th Sept 1865

Bureau R. F. & A. L.
RECD
SEP 29
1865
WASHINGTON

Lain General
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
Edward R. Baird
Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Lay this Landing
27th Sept 1865

Ans Oct 4th 1865.

Say this Landing Va.
27th Sept 1865.

Bureau Refugees R.

Asks information
concerning the rights
of employers &
employees.

Greene, Maine, sept 27
[1865]

to you, honor Major General O. O. Howard I now will try and inform you of my unfortunate luck I went to portland, Sept 25th and went to the wharf and they told me that they could not let the fare go till next wednesday and I went to the ~~[illegible]~~ quartermaster and got his opt till then they had a great load of soldiers to carry to sea, or I did not no what to do so I came home this morning and shall hast to wright

Respectfully yours
Thomas S. Burbie

Maj Genl Howard
Washington City
D.C.

Genl.

In good faith and confidence I beg leave to submit a proposition for your private consideration. I propose that you purchase one, two or more good cotton plantations together with Stock and provisions sufficient to cultivate the same. Let me take charge of one plantation and put the others under charge of any one you see fit. Get one of your Sons or some one upon whom you can rely to act as your general Agent. That is to hire the necessary Laborers to cultivate said farms, to ajust all difficulties that may arise upon said farms between the Junior Agents and the freedmen, and in fact to superintend the whole affair. Plant all these farms in Cotton and it will prove a great fortune to you. Cotton will be worth twice as much next year as it is now for there will not be as much made by one half. Besides it is something that will always bring the gold when ever it is made and put in the market. Good Cotton Lands can be bought here now from two and a half to five dollars per acre (in gold) and the same lands previous to the war was worth seventy five to one hundred dollars per acre. Every thing appertaining to a farm is in proportion

My real motive in writing to you in regard to the above is simply this. I want to make some money. I have been raised in a cotton country, in fact on a large Cot farm until seventeen years old. I know all about raising it. If you will get the Lands, put the right kind of men in charge of them and the right sort of a man to supervise the whole affair, you can make plenty of money and then pay me good wages for my services. The reason that planters dont go into such arrangements here. There are few who have the means. and farthermore they fear if they hire Freedmen about the time the crops need work they will quit. Now here is a preventive for such. Your Senior Agent can always be able to have such vacancies filled. if he is a real active business man. Besides I dare say that you could procure a great portion of white Labor. which would be be better

Now what say you to my proposition? You get the Land furnish every thing & pay me out of the crop. What say you?

I recd. Your answer to the Letter I wrote You not long ago. I return You my thanks for the same Genl.; but I must be permitted to say however, though it was no more than I expected the language in which your answer was couched was "rather cool." I had some little hope of receiving those few lines from Your pen, in order that I might be able to form some idea of You. But as it is, I don't feel willing to expose myself upon another's writing and for all I know this dictation. My first Letter was intended as a private one. I regret to learn however from Your answer that it was termed an "official" one I presume You had a motive for it however as I had one in directing it to the care of "The Hon. Wm. H. Seward" All I have to say is Genl. that as a true Soldier I entered the Army and fought for the rights of my State. And although subjugated & crippled for life, I still believe that I was right. At all events I feel the proud consciousness of having done my duty to my State. We have been honorably defeated let us accept the terms of our conquerors. I only hope Genl Howard that You were as honest in Your principles as I was in mine. If You were, I know You are like myself in one respect, have nothing to be ashamed of.

Pardon me My dear Sir, & do not think that I talk so because I think by so doing, to hurt your feelings; or simply to fret You, in any way. I do this Genl because my feelings sometimes get the better of me I have expressed thoughts to You in this letter, over which, I have frequently shed tears feelingly and fast. I close with the hope that time will prove all things; and that You may learn to think more kindly of us.

My best wishes for You & Yours.

I have the honor to be Genl. Yours &c

West Point Lowndes Co. Miss.
Sept 28th 1865

T. W. Howard

308 So. 11th St. Philadel.a
Sept. 28th 1866

Gen. Howard.

Will you please inform me if there is a vacancy in any of the Colored Schools in the South. There is a colored boy whose mother as well as himself who have worked for me who is very finely educated that could you procure for him a suitable situation you would confer a great favor upon me. About a year since I started a situation for him as Office boy also to keep the books of the Office which situation he now holds. He can bring you excellent recommendations. His mother has worked very hard to educate him.

Gen. Howard I have not seen you for a number of years. Although a

of your own State. I have been absent from my Native hills for a number of years. I shall never forget the morning we received the telegraph that your regiment was about to leave. Many dear friends were among the No. I write refer you to the Hon Hannibal Hamlin who has known me from Infancy.

The young colored man of whom I speak I know to be honest and upright. Please do all you can for him. Please answer as soon as you possibly can.

Respectfully
Lewis J. Haines

Virginia Military Institute
Lexington V. Sept 28. 65

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard
Supt. Freedmen's Bureau.

162

General. I am sorry that your other arrangements prevented your from visiting Lexington at this time. I feel sure the visit would have done good to the important cause you have in hand.

Since I saw you I have received a letter from my agent in Mississippi, left in charge of the estate of Gen. Cocke there. He writes discouragingly. He says the negro soldiers have greatly demoralized the freedmen - that the tendency of their conduct is, to induce insurrection - that the contract which I had made with our servants, 400 in number, & which reached through the year 1866, giving a share of the crop to them, had been cancelled by the Agent of the Bureau, and altogether, he feels that no hopefulness

wish among the people, of securing steady work from the negroes. He writes from Columbus Miss. dated 26. August 1865

A gentleman from Atlanta, Geo. gives the same account, & he says great apprehension are felt in Geo. of insurrectionary designs, prompted by the conduct of the Agents of Bureau, & the character of the troops there. I mention these things to you for your information & guidance & shall be glad, if your future assignment may bring you here.

Sam. Genl.

Very Resp

Thomas H Smith