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2993 9/27/1865      *From:* A. Paull Mitchell      *To:* Maj Genl O O Howard

OOH-2936      Wheeling West Virginia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[227, 228]

Wheeling West Virginia  
Sep 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 morning's paper to the appointee to report before the 17th of Oct or there will be a vacancy. From what Genl Dunlap said I inferred 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 shall always remember the name of Genl Howard with gratitude.

I remain with much respect your humble Servant  
A. Paull Mitchell

Wheeling Sep 27th 1865

Maj Genl O O Howard

[Attached clipping from a newspaper]

The Intelligencer  
Campbell & M'dermot  
Editors and Proprietors  
Thursday Morning, Sept. 28  
Union Ticket  
State Senate  
Gen. I.H. Duval  
House of Delegates,  
Col. Wm. R. 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.

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

Wheeling West Va  
27 Sept 1865  
Mitchell A.P.  
Asks assistance in getting apptd cadet at West Point  
Recd Sept 30, 1865  
ans Oct 3d

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2994 9/27/1865    *From:* Shipherd

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2937

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[154, 155]

Washington 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.

Let me entreat you not to do this last. I have already written you of the meeting of the full Board of Commissioners at Phila'a 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 from it I do not know 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 great organization (as it is sure to be) which has undertaken to represent the philanthropy & christianity of the entire country toward the ex-slave.

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 one heartiest God speed.

Faithfully yours,  
Shipherd

If you can get us that building on 14th St, it will be a good turn which we shall be prompt to reciprocate? We prefer the one described – next to the church – to any other in the block. I am inclined to think that the stores from the Sanitary Com'n had better be turned over to the F. Com'n than to the Bureau, if I could only see you to compare notes about this.

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

Washington Sept 27

Shipherd LR

no answer required

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

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2995 9/27/1865     *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-2938

Beaufort S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150, 151, 153, 152]

Beaufort S.C.  
Sept. 27 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 conferred. 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 Freedman thus. It is wrong. 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 Stedman. Returned Rebel soldiers (I learn from a Col. of a Regt. just from the interior) lounge about the hotels, swearing, chewing tobacco & drinking when they can get liquor and they are perfect desperadoes.

The murderer of one of those of officers for whom the Col of the Regt. offered \$10,000 reward rode up to the Hotel just after the troops had left there 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 and 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. dont relish breaking up his home probably. But I think it wise. I am glad you are coming down in person. Gen. S. (tell Gen. Fullerton) says he has sent the reports as far as obtainable – the one about lands 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 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 I hear he has provided a house here paying a year's rent.

I hope you will not have granted the transportation to Redpath 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 Chap. Tent furnished by the C.C.

I fear you will not have time to read it but I have much more to write. Two companions at Paris Island have been taught by one of the Sergeants. They (the Regt.) have put 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 honest black men?

Devers 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. Sams, deceased. His heirs are here to claim it. Was sold for taxes more than two years ago. Now in Capt Low's hands for the Bureau. Must it revert

to the heirs and be lost to the Bureau?

My Cook, Aunt Sallie Sams (colored) thinks she has claims upon the property here for two reason, Viz: 1st she is a daughter of said Sams - 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 intelligent and morally capable if not already (as may be) possessing a high Christian Character. Would enjoy 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.

Charleston people are clamorous for their property –even those not pardoned. Let somebody – say Harry - write if you cannot.

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 traveled in Europe & profited by it in taste & information. I fear is a little awry morally, tho' he says his father is a Methodist Clergyman. He says he himself was always an abolitionist, but they have mixed him up with Gov'r 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 Gen. Saxton may have been purified by the Holy Ghost since Seymour knew of those sinful doings. I would not for the world talk so harshly about any human being as Seymour did against Saxton. 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 repeats what Dr. DeWitt 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 Com'y Dept. annuls everything by cutting off all food?

I will go to see Gen Devens about it tomorrow. Gen. Saxton asked for Capt Bench as C.S. Why has he not been assigned? If he is not another should be sent at once and Col. Balloch had one (he told me) in view.

I should not write in this way if it were not important for your attention.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Write a cheerful letter to mother when you can I fear much for her health and mind! C.H.H.

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2996 9/27/1865

*From:* Edward R. Baird

*To:* Maj Gen O O Howard

OOH-2939

*Source:* Bowdoin

Laytons Landing  
Rappahanock River  
Essex Co. Va.  
Via Baltimore &  
Steamer Matilda

Chief Freedmen's Bureau  
Washington D.C.

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[153]

Laytons Va  
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.

1. In the event of the service of a freedman (for many your slave) becoming undesirable to give an account of a superfluity of hands – in capacity to find him objectionable conduct his post or any other reason, are you compelled to retain him contrary to your wishes until the 1st of March 1866 or can you discontinue even paying him at your option?
2. In the event of a Freedman having poor 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 should he desire to do so? [Ans.] Yes. [The answer to this question and others following was written in pencil in another hand.]
3. In case he should return & endeavor 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 civic authorities remove him & in case of both these means failing are you not at liberty to protect yourself? [Ans.] If a man forces himself upon you appeal to the local
4. In cases of stealing on the part of Freedmen, if there should be no military force at hand, is it not admissible to try such offenders before the Civil Tribunal & if convicted punish them under the laws of the State? [Ans.] They can be allowed to testify as other people.
5. In event of an the efficient portion of the Freedmen (formerly your slaves) having left you contrary to your wishes, leaving the whole set of chargeables, their wives, children &c, are you not a liberty to discontinue the support of person's whose natural protectors have deserted them & rendered their support in most cases a grievous burden to the <> practicable. [Ans.] When women have been kept for unclear purposes and are only <> very frequently they are not their wives & children.
6. If we are required to keep him whether we wish it or not, what means are available to secure the proper amount of labour and obedience on their part? [Ans.] The husband cannot be <responsible> otherwise they are different compensate they can be obliged to <> endure the <> keep the matter contracts.
7. When required to keep them contrary to our own inclinations are we also required to compensate them or not & if so in what terms & will not the support of the chargeables be allowed as an offset against the labour of the efficient, to be deducted from their wages?

Satisfactory information on these points is most earnestly desired by the most intelligent of our citizens for the proper adjudication of their conduct according to Laws & for the solution of questions constantly arising in our intercourse with what was formerly the Slave population & knowing that such information could more certainly be obtained from your Hd Qrs than elsewhere the foregoing questions are respectfully submitted for your consideration.

As early an answer as convenient is respectfully solicited.

Direct to  
Edward R. Baird  
Laytons Landing  
Rappahanock River  
Essex Co. Va.  
Via Baltimore & Steamer Matilda

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

Layton's Landing Va  
27th Sept / 65  
Baird, Edw'd R.

Propounds seven questions. Asks information concerning the rights of employees & employers

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D SEP 29 1865  
Ans Oct 2nd 1865

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2997 9/28/1865 *From:* Thomas H Bubies

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-2940

Greene, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Greene, Maine, Sept 28 [1865] [The year was added in pencil.]

To your honor Major General Howard

I now will try and inform you of my unfortunate luck. I went to Portland, <> and went to the wharf and they told me that they could not let the ferry go till next Wednesday and I went to the quartermaster and got her Capt tell them they had a boat load of solgers to cary to new york. I did not no what to do so I came home this morning and shall haft to weight.

Respectfully yours  
Thomas H Bubies

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2998 9/28/1865

*From:* T.W. Howard

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2941

West Point Lowndes  
Co. Miss.

Washington City  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

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 other 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 adjust 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 whenever 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 five to one hundred dollars per acre. Every thing of pertaining to a farm 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 previntive 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 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 rec'd your answer to the Letter I wrote you not long ago. I return you my thanks for the same, Gen., but I must be permitted to say however, though it was no more than I expected the language in which your answer was couch 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 dont feel willing to express myself upon anothers writing and for all I know his diction. 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 Gen. that as a true Soldier I entered the Army, and fought for the rights of my State. And although subjugated, & cripple 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 conqueror. I only hope Gen 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 did 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  
T.W. Howard

West Point Lowndes Co. Miss.



Sept 28th 1865

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2999 9/28/1865      *From:* Laura J. Haines      *To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2942                      308 So 11th St.  
    Philadel'a

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161]

308 So 11th St. Philadel'a  
Sept 28th 1865

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 us, 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 obtained 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 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 will 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  
Laura J. Haines

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3000 9/28/1865

*From:* Francis H. Smith

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-2943

Virginia Military Institute  
Lexington V.

Supt. Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[162]

Virginia Military Institute  
Lexington V. Sep 28, 65

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Supt. Freedman's Bureau  
General,

I was sorry that your other arrangement prevented you from visiting Lexington at this time. I felt 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. <Arke> 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 exists among the people, of securing steady work for the negroes. He writes from Columbus Miss. dated 26 August 1865.

A gentleman from Atlanta, Geo. gives the same account, & he says great apprehensions are felt in Geo. of <insurrection itself> prompted by the conduct of the Agents of the Bureau, & the character of the troops there.

I mention these things to give for your information & guidance & shall be glad, if your future arrangements may bring you here.

I am, General,  
Very Res.  
Francis H. Smith

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D OCT 5 1865