To Major Gen. Howard

General

It can hardly be expected that you will recall the incident of your travel through the country which have no doubt been visited and frequented.

I am induced to call to you recollection an occurrence in which I was concerned with the occasion of your leaving the 52d Ca. In the Depot on the morning of the 20th. On entering the Car and about to take my seat, I turned to a friend, that I thought the Negro was doomed to be driven out. You accosted yourself to me rather reprovingly. I thought, and seemed to understand me that I wished the Negro were unoffenced, but I hope you were satisfied with the explanation I made. I was not aware that I had the honor of addressing Gen. Howard. I am put among those who are unconscious of the fact. My hearing is bad and my memory is worn, but something I said moved you to say that I should pray for my friend. I have often repeated, that I thought I had encountered a Saint in disguise. You may recollect I expressed myself just pray forgiving towards my enemies, and I wish to keep understood now.

When I discovered who you were, I had every
inclination. This opportunity to converse with you and with all of us has been a deeply interesting and a painful affair of the past, and it is as if it were quite acceptable to all.

We have heard much of Gen. Howard, and we are glad to know that he has been ordered as a special agent, to assist in the affairs of the department.

May I ask of you, however, ever struggled the working of the new system? If not yet prepared to say which he thinks the better of the two? If he should answer, that the Negro has not yet had time to develop itself, we ask what prospect he has of future improvement.

The Negro has been more than 200 years in the country in a state of slavery. Has he improved as he is in his original condition? How is it with those laborers on the islands of St. Domingo and Jamaica, the negroes, the negroes, the negroes? Can we believe the accounts of the escape of the negroes from the terrible system into which they have been raised? Do you believe that the Negro can live with the white man in any other than a put-down and unequal position? Do they enjoy...
Then in the former free states. They had not right are we inflicted with the curse of slavery to reprehend to our areas of content and happiness? But I will ask—is the negro benefited by this pretended philanthropy? Surely any person to point to me a single instance in his experience where the negro has been benefited, and I will show him a hundred where it has been a curse.

The slave trade was conducted by English and Puritan capital, and enterprise, and continued accuse to our wishes. And these are the people who having been enriched by the infamous traffic in human flesh, and that the barbarian has been Christianized and civilized, and has given evidence of kind treatment, an unprecedented increase that he is contented and happy, have began a demonic race against those in which their servants in honor, honesty, integrity, they repeals to protect the national honor, and to elevate the slave African, but in truth to gratify a malignant envious hatred towards a people in every noble attribute their superiority, and to crush in “antecedent” they have

The deed is done and we accept it as God’s work, at the hands of an ignoble race—His chosen people, you will recall the general line of old Hebrew and conqueror by great had doomed to extermination. If he had
been conquered by a fair and equal warfare. They could have generously admitted and admired the superiority. But it has been by no such means. For an overwhelming army, contributed by the whole world, not excepting our own slaves, with all the mechanical inventions of modern warfare, with the commerce of the whole world, from which we were deprived, you have conquered us, but it is an empty conquest so far as preeminence is concerned.

True men in good faith have sheathed their swords and surrendered their arms. Exhorted to meanly supporting their families, as before, they resolve to do so by honorable means to sustain their hungered wives and children. But as in the old Revolution, so now, women are true, and the rising and future generation will be taught to despise a nation who goes in having conquered by brute force alone.

You admonish me to pray for my enemies. I am inclined to think that your precept is an admirable example—did you pray for a murderer before you invaded our happy country and decorated it with more than savage warfare, more unequalled cruelty? If you did, I fear you were not sufficient in earnest. I am told to me to pray for my enemies. I explain it that I shall curse them with the last breath.

* I acknowledge no other enemy, but Yankees.*
of my existence. Both men, having lost
the property (other than a few slaves, and you
will have to answer for that too) by fire and
plunder rather than by war, and would not for the
bounty of wealth be numbered among your people.

I have almost omitted to mention that I charged
the people had violated the Constitution in
pursuing and owning property, including slaves,
guaranteed to us by the Constitution. Am I correct
when I say that I understood you to say that there was no
such guarantee? Do you think the expression "people
held to service" does not mean slaves? If you do, as
General, I am amazed.

In the course of conversation you charged that our
people have murdered yours, and attacked our
the News paper statements of the execution of a citizen at Baton
Rouge by Negro troops, with the sanction of Col. Tibert, but
primarily to inquire into the matter. I hope you will
not be. I charge that every instance of murder, and
they are numerous, that have been committed by the
Negroes of the country, on the White inhabitants, are charged
to your people, and that they will have to answer for the
murder of thousands.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully
your obedient servant,

[Signature]

[Date]