
3046 10/26/1865 *From:* Wm Heyward

To: Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-2995

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[154, 155, 156] [Note, the letter has a tear, ink blots, and tape making some of the words difficult to read.]

Augusta Oct 26th / 65

To
Maj. Gen. Howard
General

I can be expected that you will recall the incident of your travel through the country, which have no doubt been <> and frequent.

I am induced to call to your recollection an occurrence in which I was concerned on the occasion of your leaving the So. Ca. R.R. Depot on the morning of the 20th inst. On entering the Car and about to take my seat, I observed to a friend, that I thought the Negro was doomed to be driven out. You addressed yourself to me, rather reprovngly, I thought, and seeming to understand me that I wished the Negro driven out; but I hope you were satisfied with the correction I then made. I was not aware that I had the honor of addressing Gen Howard; and I am not sorry that I was unconscious of the fact. My hearing is bad and my memory is worse; but something I said <induced> you to say - that I should pray for my enemies and it was so often repeated, that I thought I had encountered a saint in disguise. You may recollect that I expressed myself not very forgiving towards my enemies; and I wish to be so understood now.

When I discovered who you were, I had every inclination <to have> another opportunity to converse with you on < matters > which you, and all of us are so deeply interested <about> a painful affection of the fate incapacitated <> making the attempt. I could not but observe that you were quite accessible to all.

We have heard much of Gen. Howard, and are glad to <find> that he has been ordered on a special personal <inspection> of the affairs of his department.

We are willing to think, that one enjoying a reputation of honesty and candour can otherwise than <> by the observations he might make of <the> working <of> the new system . May I ask if Gen. Howard ever <addressed> the working of the old system? If he did, <is he> yet prepared to say which he thinks the better of the twain? If he should answer, that he <never has> not yet had time to develop itself. I will ask what prospect he has of future improvements.

The Negro has been more than 200 years in this Country in a state of slavery. Has he improved, or otherwise, his original condition? How is it with those liberated <in> the Islands of St Domingo, and Jamaca, the one 65 the other <> years since? Can we believe the accounts of the evident barbarism into which they have lapsed? Do you believe that the Negro can live with the white man in any other than a subordinate, and menial position? Do they enjoy any other in the former free states? By what right are we inflicted with the curse of equality so repugnant to our feelings & ideas of comfort and happiness? But I will ask – is the Negro benefited by this pretended philanthropy?

I defy 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 enterprize, and continued adverse to our wishes. And these are the people who having been enriched by the infamous trafic in human flesh , now that the barbarian has been Christianized and Civilized, and has given evidence of kind treatment by unprecedented increase that he is satisfied and happy, have waged a Demonic war against those in every way their superiors in honor honesty & integrity, professedly to protect the national honor, and to liberate the slaved African, but in truth to gratify a malignant envious hatred towards a people in every noble attribute their superiors, and to crush an Aristocracy they <desired> but to which they could not attain. The deed is done, and we accept it as God's work, at the hands of an ignoble race. His chosen people, you will recollect General were of old oppressed and conquered by those He had doomed to extermination. If we had been conquered by a fair and equal warfare, I

hope I could have generosity to admit and admire the superiority. But it has been by no such means. With 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 <North's> whole world, of which we were deprived, you have conquered us, but it is an empty conquest, so far as valor is concerned.

Our men in good faith have sheathed their swords and surrendered their arms. Exhaustedly the means supporting their families as before, they react to every honorable means to sustain their hungerous wives and children. But, as in the old Revolution our women are true, and the rising and future generations will be taught to despise a Nation who gloats in having conquered by brute force alone.

You admonish me to pray for my enemies. I am inclined to think, that your precept is in <advance> of your example. Did you pray for a bloodless <war> before you invaded our happy country and <desolated> it with more than savage warfare, and unequalled Atrocity? If you did, I fear, you were not sufficiently in earnest. You tell me to pray for my enemies*. (* I acknowledge no other enemies but Yankees.) I <tell> you plainly that I shall curse them with the last breath of my existence.

With thousands I have lost my property (others have lost more than that, and you will have to answer for that blood) by fire and sword, but would rather it so, and would not for the worlds wealth be numbered among your people.

I had almost omitted to mention that I charged that your people had violated the Constitution in not securing to us our property in slaves, guaranteed to us by that instrument. Am I correct when I assert that I understood you to say that there was no such guarantee? Do you think the expression people held to service did not mean slaves? If you do so assert General, I am amazed.

In the course of conversation you charged that our people had murdered yours, and did not credit the News Paper statements of the execution of a Citizen at Newberry, So Ca. By Negro-troops, with the sanction of Col. Trobridge, but promised to inquire into the matter. I hope you will do so. 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 chargeable to your people, and that they will have to answer for the blood of thousands.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Wm Heyward
Of So Carolina

I beg leave to enclose for your inspection a slip from an Augusta Paper of this morning.

[Stamp on the last page.] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D DEC 20 1865