

Boston Nov 8. 65.

May. Genl. Sloword

Dear General -

Will it  
be possible to arrange with  
you to deliver a Lecture  
in City Hall Portland  
on the Evening of our  
National Thanksgiving day  
7<sup>th</sup> - if so on what  
terms will you come and  
how soon must we  
let you know

Very Truly

Yours

B. B. Russell

sd Nov 21, 1865

18

Booth Nov 8. 62

My dear General

I am General

Will it

be possible to arrange with  
you to obtain a picture  
of the scene of our  
National Thanksgiving day  
if so we will  
be very glad to see you  
and your family

Very truly  
yours

Wm. B. Brewster

Nov 8. 62

99  
Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia  
Charleston S.C. Nov 8<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Col J. H. Osborne  
Asst Commr Fla.  
Colonel.

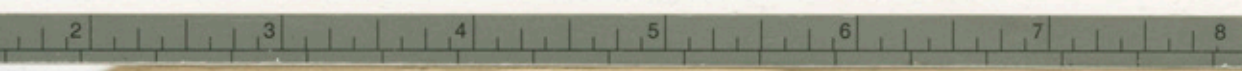
I have rec'd a letter from Gen Patton  
in which he informs me of an arrangement to have  
citizens of the counties respectfully appointed as  
Agents of the Bureau and heur as this was an  
agreement with the Gov. & the Legislature he  
does not think it possible to employ Mr Kenney  
for Camden County.

Gen Patton will pay Mr Kenney till the end  
of November, but as it is entirely beyond his jurisdic-  
tion he does not feel that he can do so longer. You  
will therefore be compelled to pay, or if you please, re-  
tify him of his release at that date.

How are you proceeding relative to new year  
contracts? Do you leave the matter as heretofore  
with some military Agents?

There seems to be a re-action against the Pres-  
ident's quelling policy in the North and promises  
good results.

over



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2 3 4 5 6 7 8  
I remain  
Your friend  
& abt yours.  
(Signed) W. H. Bonney  
Bnt 1 Brig Genl.  
Inspector &c

91

A true copy  
J. L. W. H. W.  
#95

Shaver, J. W.  
Nov. 10, 1860.

Howard, J. W.  
Capt. Brig. Genl.

Residence at the  
Capt. J. W. Howard  
Civilian Agent for  
Col. Shaver.

Wm. H. Shaver

Starbuck. Va

Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>. 1865

Major Gen O O. Howard.

Genl

I would respectfully  
ask your opinion with reference to a question  
I am discussing in my Book - which I  
expect to publish some time this winter.  
It is this, I am recommending the necessity of  
a standing army for the Government - as you  
know we have many that are afflicted -  
the negroes are not under proper discipline  
& control - and many are emigrating to  
other countries with peculiar ideas - give  
me your views

I am very Respectfully

W John S. Stearns

11  
Norfolk, Nov. 9, 1865

Musick, John D.

Concerning a  
standing army.

Ans'd Nov 24/65

Recd. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1865.

The New England Society,

Of the City of New-York,

New-York, Nov 10<sup>th</sup> 1865.

Dear Sir

The Committee of Arrangements  
of the "New England Society in the City of  
New York" respectfully invite you to be present  
on the occasion of their 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on  
Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> day of December next.

The Dinner will be given at Delmonicos  
corner of 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Fifth Avenue at 6 o'clock  
P.M.

Earnestly hoping that you will  
honor us with your presence on this occasion  
and soliciting an answer at your earliest con-  
venience,

We are, dear Sir

very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servants  
L. B. Wyman, Chairman  
Frank E. Howl  
S. N. Stebbins

Mayn Gul  
O. O. Howard  
Washington D.C.

The New England Society

Of the City of New York

New York, Dec 11. 1865

Dear Sir

The Committee of Management  
of the New England Society in the City  
of New York respectfully request you to present  
to the members of this Society a paper  
relating to the progress of the work  
of the Society since the last meeting.

It is the duty of every member  
to be kept informed of the progress  
of the work of the Society and  
of the results of the efforts  
of the members in the various  
departments of the work.

We are, dear Sir,  
very respectfully,  
Yours, Wm. W. Brown  
President E. H. Hall  
J. W. Atkinson

# Independent Lectures!

—ON THE—  
**STATE OF THE COUNTRY,**

IN AID OF THE

**Portland Freedmen's Association!**

THE third Annual Course of these favorite and popular lectures will be delivered in

**CITY HALL,**

COMMENCING ON

**Friday Evening, Nov. 17th, 1865,**

And be continued weekly thereafter, by the following distinguished Lecturers:—

Nov. 17, Hon. GEO. S. BOUTWELL, of Mass.

Nov. 24, Hon. RICHARD H. DANA, Jr., of Mass.

Dec. 1, Mrs. FRANCES W. HARPER,  
of Maryland.

Dec. 8, FREDERICK DOUGLASS, Esq., of N. Y.

Dec. 15, (to be announced.)

Dec. 19, Rev. J. M. MANNING, of Mass.

Jan. 1, 1866, Rev. A. L. STONE, of Mass.

Jan. 5, Hon. JAMES HARLAN,  
Sec. of the Interior.

Jan. 12, Maj. Gen. O. O. HOWARD, U. S. A.

Jan. 19, GEO. WILLIAM CURTIS, Esq., of N. Y.

In addition to the above, the Committee feel justified in saying that they have good reason to expect Maj. Gen. Kilpatrick, of N. J., and Hon. Lyman Tremaine, of N. Y.

**MUSIC** under the Superintendence of JOHN L. SHAW, Esq.

**TICKETS** admitting the bearer to the Course \$1.25.

Tickets admitting to one lecture, Twenty-five Cents; for sale at the Bookstores, Paine's Music Store, Crossman & Co.'s, and Lowell & Senter's.

JACOB McLELLAN,  
ISRAEL WASHBURN, Jr.,  
BENJ. KINGSBURY, Jr.,  
OLIVER GERRISH,  
M. A. BLANCHARD,

Committee  
of  
Arrangements.

Portland, Nov. 6, 1865.

dtr

501.  
**1 MARSHALL'S IMPROVED ANCHOR.**  
For further particulars enquire of, or address  
**GEO. L. KIMBALL,**  
Firm of Stevens, Fairman & Co.  
Nov. 11—dtf

## **Valuable Real Estate FOR SALE!**

**THAT** three-story **BRICK TENEMENT**, No. 11  
Brown Street—a very desirable residence—in  
complete repair.  
Also—The two-story Brick House No. 23 Fore St.  
Inquire of  
**D. H. INGRAHAM,**  
Nov 4—dtf 191 Middle Street.

### **House for Sale.**

**THE** three-story Brick House No. 70, corner of  
Danforth and Tate Streets. It has all the mod-  
ern improvements and is in excellent condition.  
The house can be examined any day.  
For terms, &c., apply to  
**RUFUS E. WOOD,**  
No. 10 Central Wharf.  
Portland, Nov. 8, 1885 —1stf

## **Valuable Real Estate for Sale.**

**IN THE PLEASANT VILLAGE OF FREEPORT.**



Five minutes walk from the Corner.  
A very desirable Farm of **25 Acres**  
of good land, well fenced and water-  
ed, embracing hay-field, orchard,  
large garden and pasturage. A good  
two story house and out-buildings, with stable and  
barn; all in good repair. To any gentleman wishing  
a country residence, this property is particularly  
recommended.

Enquire on the premises of  
**CAPT. J. A. MITCHELL;**  
Or **JOHN C. PROCTER,** Lime Street, Portland.  
oct30d2w

### **For Sale.**

**TWO** Dwelling Houses in good order; a pleasant  
and desirable location on Cumberland St. Pos-  
session given first of Nov. For particulars inquire of  
**JOHN C. PROCTER,**

ME,  
Portland Nov 12, 1865

Dr Sir;

Enclosed I have the pleasure  
to hand you advertisement of "Independent  
Lectures", in which we have taken the liberty  
to announce you for the Evng of January  
12/66, (Friday), being the Evng suggested  
in our letter of invitation, and trust that this  
arrangement will meet your wishes and  
convenience in the premises.

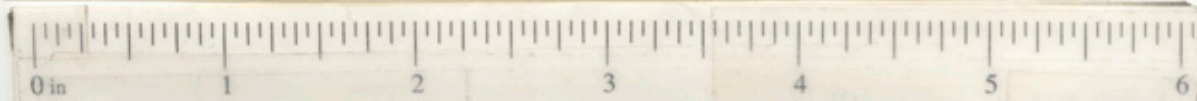
The Freedmen's Assoc<sup>n</sup> mentioned in the  
advertisement, is a Society formed in this City  
for cooperation with the "National Freedmen's  
Aid Commission" recently inaugurated at  
Philadelphia, of which Bishop Simpson is  
President.

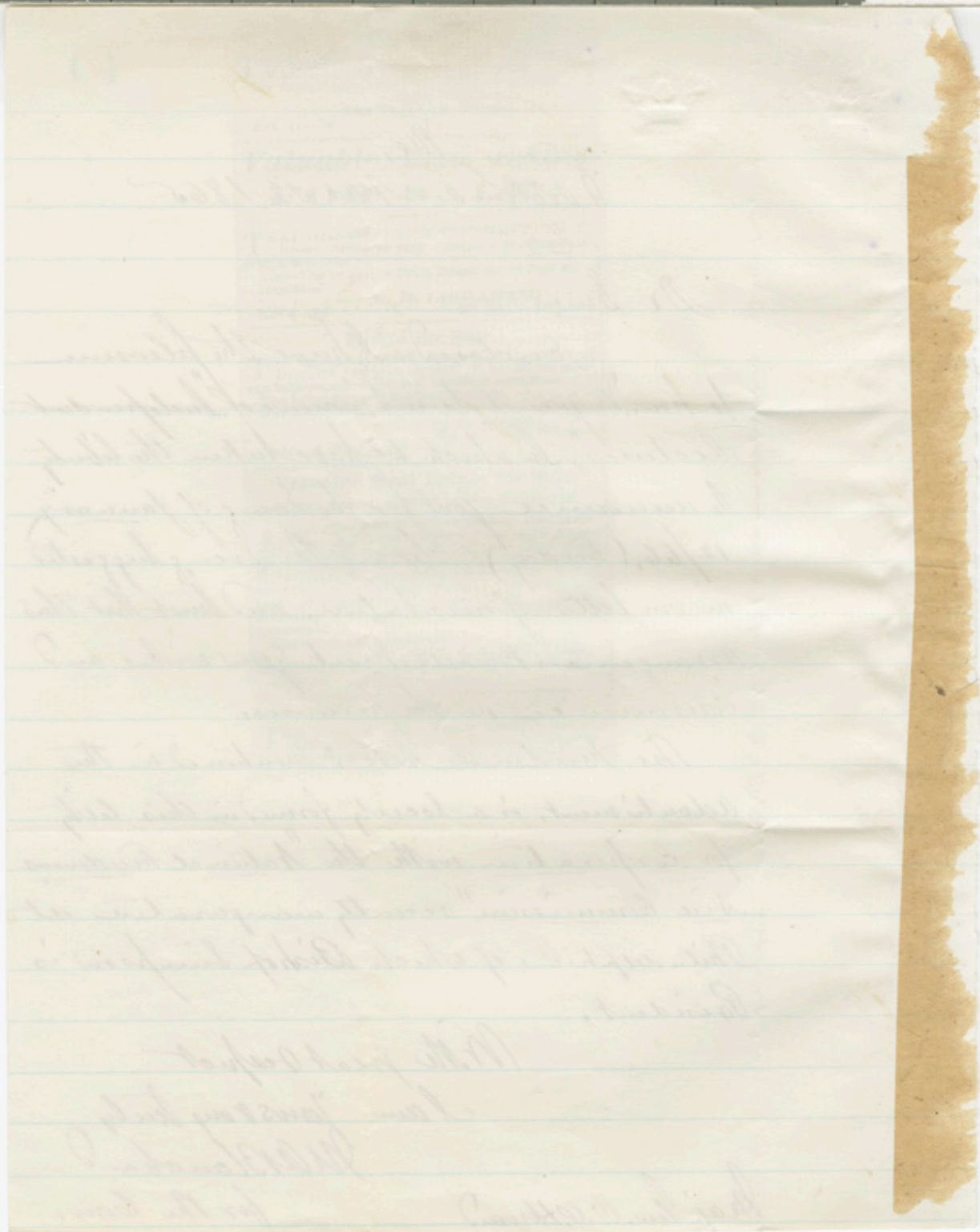
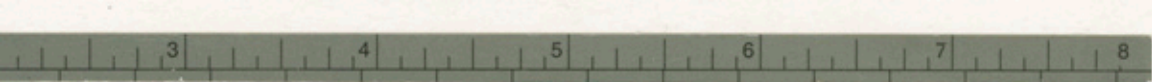
With great respect

I am yours very truly

Wm Blanchard  
for the Com.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard





Washington D.C. November 12. 1865.  
To General Howard  
Presnt.

My dear Sir,

On Thursday last I  
fell in in the cars with a Mr. H. King, a  
dealer in real and personal estate in Saver-  
nah, who claims that the course he pursues is  
endorsed by you. It seems that he has had  
interviews with Garrison, Phillips, Beecher,  
Sumner, Governor Andrew and with Gene-  
rals Sherman and Schurz and that these  
gentlemen have consulted him with regard  
to the treatment of the Blacks. He thinks that they  
ought to be kept in a state of tutelage and  
under strict authority until they are able  
to take care of themselves. In further con-  
versing with him, he expressed the convic-  
tion, that the proposed tax on Cotton, Navy  
Stores and Tobacco will call forth a hurricane  
of excitement in the South, and that the United  
States Government has no right to tax the  
South to pay a portion of the debt incurred

by the United States in consequence of the war, unless it pays the South for their negroes. If this be not done he is of opinion that the South will combine with the West, and repudiate the debt. They may be kept out of Congress for a time, but they must be admitted at last and the delay would only make them more determined to carry their point. He justified his view of the case by stating that if they are to be considered as in the Union they have a right to claim the protection of the constitution; if as out of the Union, the United States Government has no right to tax them.

The generous words the President has spoken with regard to the confidence we ought to place in the South have found a warm response in my heart; but this confidence can, of course, find no place where disloyal sentiments are so openly expressed.

I have addressed a line on this subject to the President. Where my agency in this matter ends. I am, dear Sir,

Your obedient servant

Hermann Bokum

Bureau of Immigration

November 14<sup>th</sup>

134

On matured consideration I have arrived  
at the conclusion that I ought to write to the Pre-  
sident only if you request it. I shall be ob-  
liged to you if you will inform me of your  
return to this city.

Washington Dec 11/65

Robert Sherman

Concerning Mr. King  
Sey. of Massachusetts  
Ma.

Recd. Dec 15/1865

Polytechnic College, 3 Tremont Row, Boston  
Mass. Nov. 13/65

137

Dear Sir

I have just returned from a visit to the Freedmen's Village at Arlington and from some interviews with Capt. Spurgin, Gen. Eaton and Mr. Dory Supt. of the Soup house East of the Capitol. My object in going to Washington was to learn the real condition of the sufferers under your charge, and if conditions admitted of it, to take my position among them and offer them instructions in building the very best of houses very cheaply with their own hands; and how to work iron, make leather, make their shoes, card and spin wool, cut out and make clothing; in short to help them to be self sustaining, so far as the climate would admit; but, to my great regret and disappointment, I found the first indispensable requisite wanting, i.e. land for permanent homes. We could do nothing to much purpose till they should have land in fee simple, where each could look forward with some degree of security for the permanent enjoyment of the fruits of his labor. Unless this can be attained, the future of that suffering and abused, though superior people as drudges for an adverse race, is gloomy indeed.

I have on hand tools for working iron and wood, for laying stone, making bricks, laying bricks, plastering, lathing, painting and glazing, sign painting, printing, stereotyping and engraving. I can show them by example how to use all these to advantage - how to make their leather, and their shoes, their soap and several other necessary articles, and can procure for them

any branch of the most useful information that they  
might want from time to time. If they ~~had~~ had land of their  
own, each one his home, free from all external control, I would  
at once take my position among them asking no aid or  
salary for myself but should depend like them on my  
own exertions for support. I should introduce several  
small branches of manufactures and get them to help me, and in  
doing which they would learn to conduct them themselves.

I should prefer a location near Washington north of the  
Potomac for reasons which can be given when needed.  
Water power is not needed. If there is timber, they can saw all  
the lumber they need by hand with a peculiar kind of saw  
which renders a mill unnecessary to them, and there is  
a cotton spinning machine which spins six threads  
at once, turned by a crank with one hand - This has  
been made in Cincinnati and sold in the South for  
forty or fifty years - It would have been used north but  
it requires cotton with seed in it.

This proposition will be met by the ignorant with  
the vulgar old saw of "jack of all trades and good at none"  
but there never was a greater or more fatal error - nor a  
more formidable obstacle to the relief of suffering and  
the adjustment of human affairs than the blind and  
challenged admission of the necessity of the common  
apprenticeships. I can give overwhelming proof that they  
are unnecessary and that, opportunities being opened, the  
disturbance can sustain and make themselves comfortable,  
and I am ready to assume the responsibility of making this  
statement publicly, and to take my position with all

the risks of settling and conducting business with that  
gentle, docile, susceptible race, as a test.

The principal object of this, <sup>is to</sup> place before your mind a few  
facts which you could not, otherwise be aware of in behalf of  
the sufferers under your charge, and to point out the sine qua  
non (the land) upon which the whole depends. Having the land,  
very little if <sup>any</sup> aid would be needed from government over and  
above what would be rendered voluntarily by the benevolent.

Very respectfully

David Warren

Please address me at Chittendale Mass.

Refer to Prof. C. C. Demott, formerly of the Unitarian Insti-  
tution now Capt. Boston City Library, or to A. C. L. Arnold, Polytechnic College 38 Mount  
Pleasant Boston.  
After having read this, please pass it to Charles  
Sumner. I was the person of whom Prof. Demott  
spoke to him.

D. W.

Brooklyn, Jan 13, 1864.

My dear, Jewish

Barbara a plum per  
fecting in a century  
of wisdom and beauty  
with him the model.

Wm. A. L. R.



196

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
SOUTH CAROLINA AND GEORGIA,

Charleston, S. C., Nov. 14 1865.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard

Dear Brother

Very soon

St. Dewhurst is one  
of the Directors of the  
Florida Land & Lumber Co.  
He is well known to me.  
Is a gentleman of integrity  
and I thought you would  
like to know about the  
Scheme of his Company  
for Colonization in Florida.  
It is eminently practical



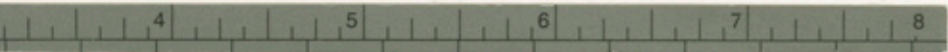
In fact they mean to  
make it as much <sup>187</sup>  
praiseworthy as a philanthropic  
success. Mr. Dewhurst  
is an Ex Lieutenant of the  
33<sup>d</sup> U.S. Colored. He is  
on his way to Maine  
to purchase a Saw mill  
for his Company.

I send by him some  
papers for you enclosed  
to Maj. Stinson - One  
pertains to Mr. Middleton's  
property at Georgetown.

We are all rejoicing  
at the success in Elections -  
especially for New York.

Bureau matters seem to be  
progressing well here. I am  
waiting to hear from you in  
answer to some recent letters

Yours Affec. Brother  
C. H. Howard



*[Faint, illegible handwritten text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page. The text is mirrored and difficult to decipher.]*

20

Lewis Cass Co Iowa  
Nov. 15<sup>th</sup> 1865

Dear General

Please allow me to  
trouble you a little. I have a note  
against Maj' Gilbrish for one hundred  
and fifty dollars due almost a month  
ago. and as I am in pressing need of  
it I would very much like if you  
will have the kindness to receive the  
money from the Maj' and after paying  
yourself for your trouble send me  
the balance by Adams Express to  
Lewis Cass Co Iowa..

My health is quite good and I am getting  
along nicely.. please pardon me for making  
the request.



With many kind wishes for Your  
welfare: I am Sir Your Obt. Servant

To Maj Genl

O C Howard

Comman. of Refugees & Abandoned Lands  
Washington

D.C.

P.S. please find note within

Sumner, Charles Sumner  
Nov. 15, 1845

Mills, Geo. C.

Take care, Sumner  
to collect a bill  
against May's bill-  
forth 1846.

Nov. 28, 1845

I hope you can read this  
 letter as it is while my pen  
 heart - is broken but I must do  
 what I can. Massillon, Ohio, Nov. 16/64  
 [1865]
   
 Dear Howard.

My Dear Sir you no doubt will  
 be surprised in seeing a letter  
 from a stranger.

You do not seem like one  
 for I have been so much  
 interested in all your affairs  
 more like a friend which  
 I well know you will be  
 on Tuesday Father & Co. received  
 a letter from Col. Polk, 37. Co. 1st  
 stating that Lieut. D. H. Lee, A. D. C.  
 in Gen. G. A. Smith's Regt had been  
 killed. on a new cross in  
 Ala, also only one man had  
 escaped to tell the sad tale, that  
 you had said he acted like a Hero

by that we think you and Col. Potts  
have had conversation in  
regard to him. I am Gen. Howard  
Srent. Lee wife and a more dis-  
tressed one you have never  
met. We had been looking for  
our Darling home where the  
news came, by the daily paper  
we saw that the 17. N.C. had  
moved in and indeed you  
will find all that we can  
find out in regard to our  
death do not I pray you pass  
it over coldly but with  
do and tell us all you know  
for tis terrible, this awful suspense  
we would send but tis impossible  
to get through and we have telegraph  
and news come back that  
could go no further that  
Chattanooga, Oh! how dreadful  
this was is I pray for it soon.

4 5 6 7 8  
I hope you will be a friend to  
me and write and let me  
know all you can find out  
about my Darling Noble Soldier  
it seems as though I cannot  
give him up I think he still  
live or at least I try to make  
myself believe that he has not  
left me May my Heavenly  
father do what he thinks  
best - but O! I cannot count  
rest till I find out the truth  
in regard to him he has a  
brother in the 51 Reg corp. Ill. by  
name Albro Lee, I have written  
to him to get his remains if  
it is possible and I hope you will  
give him all the aid in your  
power we must have his  
body at all hazard we don't  
care for money in anything  
only if tis so he has fallen  
must have his remains sent

home. Oh! do write and tell me  
all you know about him  
if only his Reg had not moved  
in then he could of been  
seen after or why did they  
not send out a flag of  
truce and brought in the  
dead or did they. Oh! Gen do  
not think this interesting only  
think what you would do if  
thous to do with your own  
wife and then decide what  
or how to help me we cannot  
no other news Oh! do write  
please my prayers shall be  
for your well far ever, and all  
shall be returned to you in  
days to come. Mother Lee and  
are almost wild what has been  
come of my Darling do all in  
your power to get them  
information and you will  
have all that it cost you you  
shall prosper for Christians  
prayers are answered Mary etc.  
God of Battles Save you. To go to  
return to those you love is the perfect  
of Mrs Genl L. H. Lee.

Darlington S. C.

24

Nov. 16 1865-

Dear Brother

I don't know but you will think I am writing more letters lately than you can afford time to read but there are still one or two pressing matters I wish to lay before you.

I saw by the Newspaper that Gov. Perry had made some application to you about the school buildings at Charleston.

We now retain only two of them which is considerably less than is due the Colored Children according to their proportionate number in the city. We gave up the largest and one of the best school houses to the authorities on their application some two months ago and they have not

yet used it. We broke up ~~a~~ one school in it crowding the scholars into the other two schools.

The schools we now have are crowded - The 800 pupils in the Normal school are more than that building can well accommodate. I inspected that school a few days ago and find it in the most prosperous and profitable condition. It would be a crying shame to break up that flourishing school. It must not be done; and no one ought to entertain the thought of driving it out of that house which contributes so much to its efficiency until another equally good is provided.

I have no doubt that in time the people of the North would contribute & build a school house but meanwhile

the present throwing schools ought not to be disturbed especially as there seems no prospect that the buildings will be immediately used for white children.

We decided that the City of Charleston ought to give a fair proportion of its school-houses for use of the blacks and had a census taken to know the number of Colored children and of Whites. I can furnish these figures from our office - We have in possession less than the due proportion of the buildings.

I am here on inspecting duty - Many of the planters refuse to make contracts - They are looking for the removal of the U.S. Troops when they may have matters their own way. Gen. Richardson who now

<sup>Sl</sup>  
Darlington Nov. 16. 1865

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Edward Leach <sup>Sl</sup>  
Barnet Bury. Hen.

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Seller of Informa-  
tion.

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Dec. Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. 1865.

(4)

26  
Commands this Mil. District  
of Brig. Gen. Nye agree that the  
Negro will fare hard indeed if  
the military are withdrawn and  
all agree also that the Bureau  
cannot exist anywhere here  
without the troops.

But what is singular the  
people - including all the  
ladies in our County have pe-  
titioned Mr. Nye to allow his  
garrison to remain - They did  
this on hearing that he was  
going to withdraw it.

(8) We have suspicion that some  
of the property in Charleston was  
furtively transferred by certain  
unpardoned Rebels to Rogers  
& Company (with which firm the  
Rebel Secy Greenham belongs) in  
order to take it out of the  
hands of the Bureau.

Rogers & Co seem to own

half of Rochester and our  
house which was supposed to  
belong to Old Brunswick Rhett  
is of the no. It is our "Teacher  
Home" accommodating 20 teachers.  
I do wish it might be perman-  
ently secured for this use.

We will hire it at "moderate  
rate," retaining it under your  
order, <sup>for the present</sup>. But will not old  
Brunswick Rhett's property be  
confiscated? If not I do not  
conceive how any property can  
be. — Tell Lieber I  
now Capt Jordan <sup>29<sup>th</sup> Me.</sup> at Florence will  
see him again Saturday. He attended  
your wedding per remembrance. I had  
not seen him since the wedding. He  
wished he had known of your being  
at Florence, as also did Gen. Nye &  
other Maine Officers. I go to Lebanon to  
morrow. — Yours affectionately brother  
C. H. Howan

New Orleans Misses

Nov 18, 1865

Dear Cousin

I regret troubling you when you have the Mary Lou over you. But having interested myself in behalf of Wm M Perkins (the Gentleman I introduced to you for the purpose of obtaining possession of his dwelling house) you directed possession to be given = yet it has not been able to obtain it. Will you do me the favour to ascertain if his pardon has been signed and deliver it to the care of Wm M Perkins or to Mr Perkins that he may be able to get the use of his house, it is not occupied by any one = If his pardon has been signed, a despatch from you ~~will~~ would enable him to get his house. This is the first time I have troubled any one, or asked for the benefit of any one, and would not in this case had I not known him as a Gentleman = I have no doubt the pardon has been issued but is months some times before the law. Yours affectionately  
J B Woodman

New Orleans  
Nov. 18, 1865.

Dear General Sherman and  
family he will receive

South

New Orleans, 1865.

Dear General Sherman and  
family he will receive

Account of the  
operations of the  
Army of the Gulf

Mr. Sherman

30  
Nov 29<sup>th</sup> 1865  
The following is a list of the names of the officers and men who have been killed in the late war. The names are given in alphabetical order. The names of the officers are given in full, and the names of the men are given in full or in part, as the case may be. The names of the officers are given in full, and the names of the men are given in full or in part, as the case may be. The names of the officers are given in full, and the names of the men are given in full or in part, as the case may be.

Hillsdale Coll.

23

Hillsdale Mich Nov 18<sup>th</sup> / 15  
Gen. Howard.

Dear Sir.

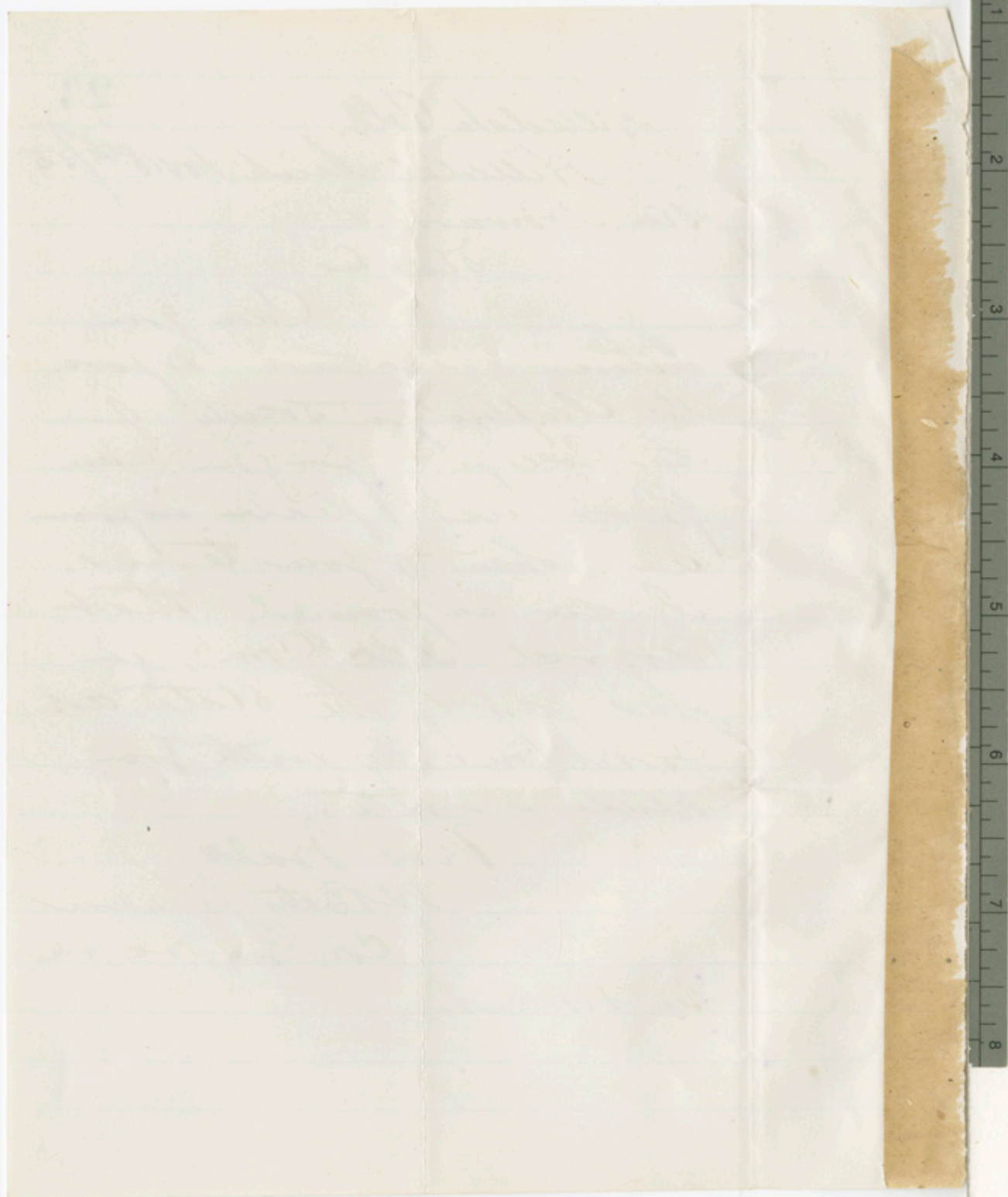
Can you  
deliver a lecture before  
the Amphictyony Society of  
this College? for you can  
give us a pleasure in you  
as when in your term.  
I am informed that  
several Soc. Com's, in  
this part of the state are  
corresponding with you,  
hence I write.

Very Truly

W. Bates Johnson

Cor. Sec. &c, &c.

Gen. Howard,



Davenport Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 1864.

Major Gen O. O. Howard

Sir. Having received from the War Department permission, to appear before the examining Board, for Officers in collared Regiments, in pursuance of the application you had the kindness to forward, I appeared and was examined, the examination was very slack, and I must hope that I passed.

Before leaving Washington I asked Col Foster when I would hear of my case, he told me that at the time there was no vacancy, but if I am permitted to mention that a word from you, to him, would very soon find one, please General forgive me for troubling you so much.

With many respects for you  
and Staff I remain your obedient servant  
S. May things

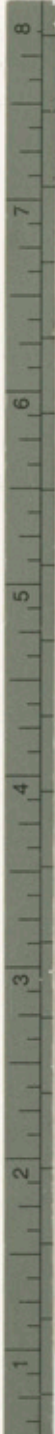


Natick, Nov. 20th, 1869.

Major General O. O. Howard,

I am  
glad to see that you have  
returned to Washington. Will  
you drop me a line and tell  
me how you found the  
condition of the freedmen.  
Gen Wild just from Georgia  
tells me that their condition  
in that state is hard indeed. It  
seems to me we have been  
giving up the cause of the  
freedmen for the past five  
months. It is time to halt, and  
to face the issues. I have great confid-  
ence in your disposition to do  
all you can for liberty, justice  
and humanity.

Yours truly  
W. W. Adams



To the Elder Bro: of Jeff: Davis. 158<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>  
Q 191 - Vol. 2. 1871



VICKSBURG, NOVEMBER 20th 1865.

(Your note is as follows :)

VICKSBURG, MISS., Nov. 16th 1865.

Sir: Your note of late yesterday evening, withdrawing as counsel for the Freedmen, against the Freedmen's Bureau, is received.

Your Ob't Serv<sup>t</sup>

J. E. DAVIS

The facts are: That on the 14th you applied to me to represent certain freedmen, who had made complaints against the Bureau, informing me that neither you nor they had any money with which to pay me a fee. You left with me certain copies of petitions and letters, all of which I read; and about 4 P. M., I proceeded with you to an office, in which I found three officers organized, as a board of investigation. Arriving there, I ascertained that the Board had been engaged for a week or more in the business. I also learned that at least one of the freedmen whom I appeared at your instance to represent, had been examined before the Board, and had declared that he had no complaint to make. The case was fully in possession of the Board, and all the papers which you had submitted to me were on file and reference was made both by the President of the Board, and by Judge Merwin, who appeared for you, to other papers on file which I had never seen, or heard of before. Your statement that I was possessed of the facts is false. Your insinuation that I deserted a trust, or violated the sacred relations of counsel and client, false and malicious. No confidential communications were made to me; nothing was imparted to me, which I could not easily have learned by application to the proper office in which all the papers were on file. You have made an effort to have them all published in a newspaper and failed.

You may as well know the plain truth now as at any future time. You represented yourself as acting for and on behalf of some sixty freedmen. I agreed to appear for them, not for you. When I got to the place of trial, I found not one freedman present. For you and to subserve any purpose of making mischief and stirring up strife, which you may have had, I could not have been induced to leave my office—to prosecute a claim for redress made *bona fide* by Freedmen, I would appear as counsel, with a very distant prospect of compensation. As none of my expected clients were present, I was forced to conclude that the whole prosecution was your affair and a pitiful device resorted to by you to give vent to the undying hatred which you entertain against the United States and all its Departments of Government. To any such scheme I can never be a party, and I took the earliest and promptest means of retiring from such a case. This I had a perfect right to do. Your experience may be long, but it has not learned you everything. Among other things it has not taught you to feel and act as a gentleman. The only regret which I have is that I did not use plainer terms in my note of withdrawal and assign all the reasons which influenced me. Your experience does not establish rules of practice for attorneys and counsellors at law. When I think my services no longer required, or that they cannot be rendered profitably to others or pleasantly to myself, I claim the right to withdraw, abandoning of course all claim to any compensation. This right I have exercised, and should do it again, taking care however to express my withdrawal in the most offensive, instead of the most polite terms, in consideration of the character to whom I was forced to address myself.

I found present at the Board the following gentlemen: Hon. W. Brooke and D. O. Morgan, W. B. Sloan and Wallace, Esqrs., and I left them before the Board when I retired. Not a single witness was present or expected that day. It seemed to me a great diminution of my self respect to take the fifth of a frivolous case, which had been progressing for more than a week. No real clients were present. As to your setting up as the special friend and guardian of free negroes, I could not suppose you would do so. No other conclusion remained but that you were using their names for your own seditious purposes, to make a petty war of litigation and strife, against an odious Department of an odious Government, which you have done all in your power to destroy. I thank God you have failed, signally and ingloriously. You have all the venom of the poisoners adder, but without its power to strike. Perhaps no fitter employment could be found for you, and men like you than this petty and seditious prosecution of alleged suits in favor of free negroes, against a department established for their benefit. You have shown yourselves incompetent to manage a great popular revolution or to succeed in a great enterprise. You must find some channel through which to vent your pent up malice. Complaints against the Department is perhaps the only one left to you, and if I had the power I would stop them in very short order.

FORWARDED NOVEMBER 1862

TO THE HONORABLE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
SIR: Your note of the 11th inst. is received. I am sorry to hear that you have been so long in the country, and I am sure that you will find it very interesting to see the progress of the war. I am sure that you will find it very interesting to see the progress of the war.

Yours very truly,  
A. BURWELL

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I wish you to understand me distinctly. I charge that you, and men like you, have been the means directly and indirectly of the loss of life and property to many millions of people in the United States. No punishment, in my judgment, is adequate to the crimes of which you have been guilty. Your age may have prevented you from rendering all the service to treason which you desired. But you have done all in your power by counsel, advice and money to inaugurate rebellion and to aid and abet it. You may declare your innocence as strongly and as often as you please. You have been a prime mover and instigator of the late "mad, foolish and wicked" acts of secession and rebellion. No more guilty man breathes in America than you. Instead of repenting of your crimes, and seeking some obscure place to hide your disgrace in, you seem disposed to obtrude yourself before the public in a new character: *the special agent and representative of freedmen*. I must have better evidence of your right to appear in this strange character than your mere assertion. The character, in some respects, may suit you. It did not suit me to appear as counsel to aid you, and I claim the right to withdraw at once and forever from all connexion with the affair.

I would not give this extended notice to your note, but for the fact that efforts of the same kind to injure and traduce me, both as a man and in my profession, have been repeatedly made since the surrender of the Rebel armies. I wish to say once for all, to you and to others, of the same envious and malicious dispositions, through you, that I have adhered through evil and good report to the Government of my fathers and would pursue the same line of conduct again, with one change; instead of temporising and arguing with traitors, I would urge the most prompt and effective measures of force to quell and exterminate them. I would anticipate and prevent civil war, by strangling treason in its very birth. As matters now stand, I see no alternative but that of general forgiveness, even of men deeply criminal. The contempt of mankind may punish some; their own reflections will punish others.

I find myself a mark for the malice of those, who with lip professions of loyalty and repentance, in every word and act of their lives show, that they are as bitter in their hatred to the Union and Government in their secret hearts, as they were six months ago, when they had armies in the field, which most of these persons took special pains not to join. Why so much of this envy and malice should be directed against me, I am at no loss to perceive. All I ask of you, and all who share your sentiments, is to come out plainly and boldly. What you have to say about or against me, publish to the world. I am disgusted with sly and secret insinuation and slander.

I ask no favor. I appeal to the public for a fair hearing and impartial judgment. No man of sense believes that the withdrawal of a lawyer from an unpleasant case, in which he had never seen his client and in which he had received no fee, would, (except for special reasons,) call forth such a volley of virtuous indignation as you have seen fit to fire in your note. I can find these special reasons in the fell spirit of treason, which still lurks about the hearts of some persons, of whom you are the fit representative. To you and to them, through you I say: that in no act of my life, am I blamable, except in extenuating your offenses, and pleading for forgiveness; when severity would have been the truest mercy, not to you, perhaps, but to the great mass of deluded, misguided and ignorant victims. I intend to continue the practice of my profession, withdrawing at my will and pleasure from any case, at any stage of it, holding myself responsible for all damages which may be incurred. The Courts are open to you. If injured, a jury of the county will redress your wrong. I invite you to sue me, instead of the Freedmen's Bureau.

I desire to be distinctly understood. For the gallant men who fought and suffered in a cause which I believed wrong and wicked, but who now come forward and accept the irresistible logic of events, with all its legal, moral and natural consequences, I have great respect. Most of them I have reason to believe are my sincere friends and if they are not, it is matter of regret to me. For the litigious, sly, unseen, dodging half-way man, I have a different feeling. Many of our best men have laid down their lives on one side or the other of this controversy. The sacrifice of a little property seems with some to be a much sorer trial than the deaths of kindred. With this class have not, and God forbid that I should have, any sympathy.

I conclude by this summary of the whole affair: 1. I withdrew as counsel because I claimed the free, full and undoubted right to do so under the circumstances above stated. 2. I set you, and all other traitors like you, at open defiance, and ask you to attack me openly and through the public press, instead of sly and secret slander. 3. I ask the public to believe no slanderous report which may be made in regard to me, but to call for proofs when anything is said about my past career and present proceedings.

A. BURWELL.