
3086 11/23/1865 *From:* [Harry] Stinson

To: Capt. A P Ketchum
AAG

OOH-3030

U.S. B.RF&c
Wash'n

Charleston SC

Source: Bowdoin

[140]

U.S. B.RF&c

Wash'n Nov 23rd [1865?]

Capt. A P Ketchum
AAG Charleston SC
Capt

Your letter of the 10 has been received & I am directed by Gen Howard to reply to your questions as follows -

Your action in regard to Col. Pritchards plantation is fully approved & you will pursue the same course in all similar cases.

The restoration of land will be made in the following manner. As soon as the board of supervisors is formed for any island or locality, the owners fair estate must make an agreement with the freedmen upon said estate that shall be satisfactory to the board of supervisors.

The order of restoration will then be given upon the owner signing the obligation & producing proper proof of title & pardon.

It is not necessary to form all the boards before restoring the property in a locality where one is in operation. The action relative to the abandoned rice fields included in Genl Sherman's order will be the same as that pursued with regard to Edisto Islands.

Very resp.
Yr ob serv
[Harry] Stinson
Brev. Maj. & ADC

3087 11/23/1865 *From:* B. P. Aydelott

To: Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3031

Cincinnati

Freedmen's Bureau
Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[49]

Cincinnati, Nov 23d / 65

Major Genl Howard,
Freedmen's Bureau
Washington, D.C.
Dear Sir,

I was encouraged to send you a little volume just issued here, and entitled "The Christian's Duties in the Temperance Cause" in seeing your name among the officer of a Society recently organized in N.Y. to restrain intemperance & its kindred evils that are now coming in like a flood upon us. The consideration too that your position cause you such great opportunities thus to promote the welfare of our beloved <comm> induced me to send you the volume.

I pray God to give you grace to be faithful in your most responsible office & to bless your efforts to serve Him.

Yr. Bro & Part in Gospel Bonds
B. P. Aydelott
N. 361 W. 6th St.

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]
Cincinnati O. Nov 23 / 65
Aydelott, Rev. B.P.
Friendly letter accompanying certain books.
Recd. Nov. 27th 1865

[Enclosed Pamphlet]
No. 45
A Popular Delusion Exposed.

All the infinite and eternal blessings of God's salvation are ours through faith we have no title to them on the ground of what we have done; but it is Gods delight to give them on the ground of what Christ has done. They are the give of His grace, through faith on our part.

How unspeakably important, then, that our faith should be real and genuine –the true faith of the Gospel! How many fancy they believe, when in reality the do not! Alas! they deceive themselves. If people generally believed the plainest declaration of God's Word –if they believe the judgment of God pronounced upon sin, "he soul that sinneth it shall die" –"he wages of sin is death –could go on as they do, from day to day and year to year, without ever having an hour's trouble or anxiety about their sins? You know it would be impossible. Were you to see a criminal under sentence of death –a sentence which might be executed without a moment's warning –interested about a thousand trifles, but perfectly unconcerned about his impending doom could you credit the profession that he really believed in the awfulness of his situation? You could not. And is not this a picture of the world around us, pursuing its easy, careless, infatuated course, utterly regardless of the dreadful judicial sentence, "f ye die in your sins, whither I go, ye can not come."

As to the glad tidings of the Gospel, similar delusions prevail. When the truth is set forth, how often do persons reply, "believe every word you have said; I have always believed it;"while, in reality, they are unbelievers! If you owed a large sum, and were apprehensive of being arrested for it, and tidings came that another, in munificent grace, had paid it for you, would not all your apprehensions be instantly allayed? If, on the contrary, you had fears on account of the debt, would it not be indisputable proof that you did not believe the debt had been paid? Undoubtedly it would. It would prove that you were, as regards the payment of the debt, an unbeliever. So is it with the tidings of the Gospel. Nothing is more common than the fashionable profession of belief, because to be regarded as an unbeliever is discreditible. But let the sifting question be put, "o you then enjoy peace with

God, in the assurance that your sins are blotted out?”and how melancholy the extorted confession! The truthful voice of conscience gives the lie to the language of the lips. They who do not believe that their debt is paid, do not believe that Christ has paid it. They who do not believe that their sins are gone, do not believe that Christ has borne them away. Such persons may, indeed, believe in the death of Christ; but they do not believe in the value of that death. They do not believe in the efficacy of his atoning blood. As regards the great fundamental truth of the Gospel—that faith which can say with assurance, and which does day, in a transport of worshiping love, “he Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.”(Isa. Liii, 6) “his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,”(1 Peter, ii, 24), and bare they away forever.

3088 11/23/1865 *From:* S.V. Merrick

To: My Dear Sir [OO Howard]

OOH-3032

Phil

Source: Bowdoin

[50, 51]

[The handwriting is quite difficult to read, and there are probably many mistakes in the transcription.]

My Dear Sir

I should much like to know your views, if you have time on the proposed session of the Union Commission & Freedmans Aid.

The F. Aid have proposed a <sumation> which the U.C. have acceded to if the two parties can agree upon a firm basis and the matter is in the hands of a joint committee.

It is clear that a united effort will be more effective than one divided, if one can agree to produce the same object.

The principle difficulty is in the Name. They are strongly incline to insist on the word Freedmen being kept. Tho it is understood that their President and several prominent members are <> it its perpetuation.

One objection to the name is <> services as the more charitable parts of both associations has been temporary we have to consider education <as our> main object. In the absence of your Bureau which must rate as a power capable of giving protection before very long. They cannot carry on schools for colored people without the consent of the Southern people and unless they strongly change that course will not be again while carried on under a title so odious to them as persuasion.

Our object is the enlightenment of the ignorant classes by governmental education so as to form an intelligent barrier against the power that now rules the South.

In this object we have a powerful sympathy <amongst> them under our present name but if we adopt the term they desire that sympathy would be lost as we fear.

We are willing to take any simple title US Union Aid Com, Southern Aid Com, American Aid Com. National –or the like –any name in fact that does not “butt” against old feeling or prejudice.

I should be much pleased to know your views as that doubtless will have great weight with these radical men.

Very respectfully
S.V. Merrick
Phil 23 Nov 1865

3089 11/23/1865 *From:* S.G. Merrill

To: Major General O.O.
Howard

OOH-3033

Washington City D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[52]

Washington City D.C.
Nov 23, 1865

Major General O.O. Howard U.S.A.
General

I have the honor to inform you that by a vote of the Soldier and Sailors National Union League of this City you have been duly elected an honorary member of their association. Trusting the interest of the Soldier and Sailor who has fought to maintain the honor of this Nation may ever receive your hearty cooperation.

I am General
Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Svt
S.G. Merrill
Rec Secy
S. & S. N.U.L.

3090 11/23/1865 *From:* C.H. Messinger

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3034

Fort Leavenworth,
Kansas

Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[53]

Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
Nov 23d, 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Washington, D.C.
Genl:-

Permit me to call your personal attention to the application of Mr. F.C. Messinger, - my father. I hope and believe that it will meet with the just consideration, which experience under your command, teaches me characterizes you. It is unnecessary for me to speak of his qualifications. They are evident in his communication. From the uniform Kindness tendered me while Chief Signal Officer upon your staff during the campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta. I can not but feel that it will not pass unnoticed.

With much respect,
I am Genl. Your obt. Serv't
C.H. Messinger
Signal Officer U.S.A.

3091 11/23/1865 *From:* F.C. Messinger

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3035

Leavenworth, Kansas

Chief of Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, and Abandoned
Lands,
Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[54]

Leavenworth, Kansas, Nov. 23, 1865.

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,
Chief of Bureau of Refugees,
Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Washington, D.C.
General:

On the 5th of June last past, being then in the Military service of the United States at Athens, Ala., I addressed to you an application for appointment to the superintendency of a Colony or Farm. Your reply, dated the 16th of the same months informed me that inasmuch as Congress had made no appropriations for the Bureau, very few if any civilians would, for the present, be employed in it, but that my letter would be filed and my name registered on list of applications; and that should occasion require, my application "ould be favorably considered."

Almost immediately after writing the application referred to, I was detailed as a Clerk in the Office of the Provost Marshal for the District of Northern Alabama, at Huntsville, where I remained until recently, when my Regt was mustered out and discharged, and I returned to my home in Wisconsin.

On my leaving Huntsville I was offered by Maj. Goodfellow, then in charge of your Bureau affairs at Huntsville, a situation as Clerk at a salary of seventy-five dollars per month, which I declined on the ground that the pay was not sufficient. I therefore beg leave to renew my application for service in the Bureau in some one of the counties in Alabama, or wherever else you may need the services of a competent person to adjust the differences between the two races, and aid in the establishment of a thorough and permanent peace in our land on truly Christian principles.

Allow me to say that my experience in the discharge of my duties in the Office of the Provost Marshal at Huntsville, previous to the arrival of Maj. Goodfellow, assures me that I shall bbe able to discharge, to you entire satisfaction, any duties you may require at my hands.

Please address me at Leavenworth, Kansas, where I am now located.

I have the honor to be
Most Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
F.C. Messinger

3092 11/23/1865 *From:* Amos H. Mylen

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3036

Lancaster Penna

Comm'er of Bureau of
Freedman &c.
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[56]

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Comm'er of Bureau of Freedman &c.
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir,

I am induced to address you because you are interested in the welfare of the Freedmen and from observations made during your late tour through the Southern States, can most likely give me the information I desire respecting the social problems now in process of solution in the South. I have recently been thinking very seriously of settling in the South either where I could profitably cultivate cotton and sugar or both including Indian corn, tobacco, rice, etc, - a system of mixed husbandry as practised in most of the Northern States.

An outline of my plan is to lease or purchase a plantation, and to till it by the help of Freedmen as workmen. If my success in the cultivation of the soil would warrant and in default of my provision on the part of the state to educate the Freedmen at public expense I would give my workmen & their families the benefit of common & Sabbath school education & churches. I am a firm believer in the value & superiority of educated free labor, it's <better> for the laborer & his employer.

I do not expect from the present attitude of the States that they will make any provision to educate the negroes. To remedy this defect in my own vicinity & plantation I would to a certain extent like to appropriate a reasonable share of my plantation profits. I can live here in comfort and plenty, and my desire to settle there would be to do a little good; that's my ambition, can I do it?

In addition to the above, I believe the Freedmen should be treated humanely but firmly, according to the best usage given to our Northern white laborers, holding out similar inducements <[torn page]> to become valuable <citizens> of the community. By this means and no other, do I believe this labor can be made profitable to the employer & employee, besides, an example would thereby be set from which much good might result in removing the prejudices of the Southern planters to a speedy and faithful adoption of the civilization of the North. This is my plan in brief - & in respect to the foregoing I would like to have these questions answered.

1. Can plantations in Miss. La. or Ark. be readily leased or purchased?
2. Is there a disposition on the part of freedmen to work faithfully for wages?
3. Can they be relied on when engaged for a year's service?
4. Do they prefer to work for Northern men?
5. How great a hostility among the Southern whites is there against Northern settlers and against such a system as I have proposed?
6. Is the country free practically from Guerrillas?

If not encroaching upon <[torn page]> & official duties too much I <desire to> have a reply because you are no speculator nor am I but interested alike with yourself in the Freedmen's welfare.

Very Truly Yours
Amos H. Mylen
Lancaster Penna
Nov. 23d 1865

3093 11/23/1865 *From:* R.H. Gilmore

To: My dear brother [OO
Howard]

OOH-3037

Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Source: Bowdoin

[58, 59]

Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Nov. 23, 1865.

My dear brother:

I see by the newspapers that you have returned to Washington. By a letter received recently from Uncle Henry I found you had been at Richmond. They enjoyed your visit very much. I am glad Rowland was able to take the trip he did with you and suppose he enjoyed it. Has he returned to Maine.

I have not heard from Lizzie & the children since they went to Washington? How are they?

I had a letter from mother a few days ago which was written in rather better spirits than usual, though I think her health is still poor. The farm still remains unsold except that I have sold it to Charlie, in order to prevent any trouble on the part of the R.R. auditor. I am not anxious to have my property what little I have left sacrificed for R.R. debts.

Here I am doing pretty well. Today I have made six dollars and I have made this week about ten dollars so far. On Saturday I am engaged to try a case in the country, which will advertize me as it is to be in a school house and is considered quite a neighborhood matter which will draw together quite a crowd. During the four weeks that I have been in practice I have made about \$55 which for the first month I am satisfied with.

Uncle Henry has told you probably in very flattering terms all about this section of country. I consider it the finest portion which I have seen of the West. Here is the same New England pure air which I longed so much to see and breath when in Indiana. The society here is better than at Richmond. Education is more thoroughly disseminated among the masses and the mind tone of society is high –as high as in most New England villages. In fact the majority of the people are from New Eng. and northern New York where the Puritan element is strong. We have Congregational Churches all about us, indicating origin of the people. Here for the first time since I left my New England home I found a New England Christian Sabbath. The shops are all closed and the sabbath is a day of quiet instead of a holy <day [tape right side pg 2]> as it is in most of the West. The people are thoroughly loyal and true to one national government. Copperheads are a variety seldom seen. We have very many elements of growth. The Cedar Valley is one of the best wheat growing portions of the State. We have an abundance of Oak wood for fuel. The country for three miles from the River is somewhat hilly and thickly wooded. At the City is the best waterpower in Iowa, which has not yet been thoroughly improved. We have to [two] R.R.s to the Mississippi and Chicago, one via Clinton & one by the way of Dubuque. A R.R. is being constructed to St Paul, Minn. and one to connect with the North Missouri R.R. at the Iowa boundary line, which will connect us directly with St Louis making us the largest R.R. center in the State.

I hope some day to see you and yours out here on the prairie. In a few years I trust I shall be engaged sufficiently in business to have a home and place for all my friends. Now I have a little office which I own. The front room is 12 feet square and the back room is 11 feet square. Fred [probably his cousin, Frederic Strickland] & I sleep in the back room and try to enjoy life there.

Give much love to Lizzie and the children.

Will you be kind enough to ascertain for me whether there is any truth in the report that the 3 years soldiers who did not enlist can now obtain \$200 additional bounty & if so by what authority. This with me is a very important matter and intimately connected with my getting my daily bread. I wish you would set some one to making inquiries in regard to it and inform me immediately.

Please write me when you can.

Your aff. Brother

R.H. Gilmore

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

Cedar Rapids, Ia. Nov 23/65

Gilmore, R.H.

Friendly letter

3095 11/24/1865 *From:* J. W. Alvord

To: Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3038

Source: Bowdoin

Office General
Superintendent of
Education
of Freedmen and
Refugees.
New Orleans

[60]

Office General Superintendent of Education
of Freedmen and Refugees.
New Orleans, Nov 24th 1865.

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard
General

I have the honor of saying that the Schools of this City & State are in a critical condition.

The leading Creoles refuse to be taxed insisting first on representation. Genls Baird & Canby hesitate. You doubtless have their telegrams. Could not the old tax (equal on both colors) suspended now be ordered forward to collections? Its partial payment is already causing trouble. This would give satisfaction to the negroes of all grades, & as the blacks pay their assessment of tax for the white schools, it is only just that the whites pay this assessment for the Col'd Schools. The complaint of the latter is without reason.

I write thus, because it will be said to have 15000 children progressing, so finally as are these (I have examined them thoroughly) turned into the streets.

As an expedient, I am causing the northern Associations to be appealed to in this emergency, as many of these teachers have had no pay for the last 2 months. All that can be obtained will be needed notwithstanding what either tax may produce.

I am kept here by these matters & the perfecting of the Savings Bank. Expect to go to Mobile first of the week. The legislature have opened their session. There is a spirit every where manifest which indicates much disloyalty & hostility in no part of the State, can be safely withdrawn.

Yours very Respectfully
J. W. Alvord
Inspt &c

3096 11/24/1865 *From:* M A Blanchard

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3039

Portland, Me.

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[61]

Portland, Me. Nov 24, 1865.

Dear Gen.

I have yours of 21st inst. The postponement of your lecture from Jan 12th to Feb. is all right. We shall endeavor to accommodate ourselves to your convenience. Please inform us as early as possible of the day on which we may expect you.

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
M A Blanchard
for Com. Box 1844

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Washington D.C.

3097 11/24/1865 *From:* G.S. Griffith

To: Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3040

Source: Bowdoin

Maryland Union
Commission
89 and 91 West
Baltimore Street
Baltimore

[62]

Maryland Union Commission
89 and 91 West Baltimore Street
Baltimore, Nov. 24 1865

Major Gen. O.O. Howard
Dear Sir,

It is proposed by the Maryland Branch of the American Union Commission, to hold a meeting on the evening of Thanksgiving Day Dec 7th in one of the churches of our city. We should be very much pleased if you would favor us with your presence and address the meeting on that occasion. By so doing you will greatly add to the interest of the meeting & the favor will be highly appreciated by the Commission. The purposes and aims of the Commission, are well understood by you & have no doubt your sanction. Enclosed please find circular.

With respect
Yours truly
G.S. Griffith
Pres. Md. Br. H. Com.

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

Baltimore Nov. 24th 1865

Griffith, G.S. Prest.

Invites Genl. Howard to be present at the meeting of the Md. Branch, of the Am. Union Com'sn Decr 7th 1865.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D NOV 27 1865

Ansd Nov. 24th 1865.

3098 11/24/1865 *From:* Eliza Gilmore

To: Dear Son Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-3041

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[63, 64]

Leeds Nov 24th 1865

Joseph Brown son of Maj Armisted Brown Wash's master Virginia Culpepper County West Point P.O. Slate Mill's. Mrs Jane Brown daughter of Widdow Mary Ann Allen was the mistress of Wash's wife, Wash's wife before marriage was Maria Barbour, at the time the eleventh Corps went west, heard from her, then she was at Lynchburg, where they said she would remain till the Yankees left, and then return, or be brought back. She went to Lynchburg in the care of Edward Burgess who married Miss Betsey Allen sister of Mrs Jane Brown Wash's wife was a negro, a little lighter colour than himself.

Joseph Brown went into the confederate service and died in Richmond Vir.

The old man Brown had been dead some time. Joseph Browns wife, and his sister Mrs Caroline Porter were left on the plantation. Maj Brown's house was five stories high Brick painted red, with tin roof, 16 miles from Culpepper Court House, 12 miles from Mrs Allen's house to Culpepper. These plantations laying west of Culpepper Court house.

Washington Camp had three brothers and one sister came to Washington City D.C. Jackson Camp, Moses Camp <> Camp and Mrs Sarah Jane Munday wife of George Munday.

Mr Steward Tell a coloured man of Alexandria gave Washington Camp some information in regard to his wife at the time he was on his way to Tennessee with the 11th Corp this Mr Tell was just then from Culpepper one of Mrs Allen's slaves. Wash has had a letter from Alford Coles Capt Gilbreth's servant, but none from Sam. Wash wishes he would write him. I have thus tried to describe Wash's wife from what he tells me. If we should sell the farm I think Wash with his good industrious habits, would do well and if we do not I think he would be better contented if he could have her with him.

I received Lizzie's good kind letter of the date 16th also Grace's on the same sheet for which I am much gratified and shall write them soon. I heard from you, all, through Rowland's letter written at Washington. He passed Leeds depot last evening. Wash was there and saw him. I do not know whether his family were with him or not. I am glad he is safely returned to Farmington again. My health is good and I am well provided, and contented to stay here as long as the farm remains unsold. Today I have helped Wash put on the outside windows which makes it seem so suny and warm.

Your Aunt Lucretia came to see me last week with her son Rodelphus who is a resident of California. Came to see his father and help take cre of him in his last sufferings which were very agonizing. His tongue was cut off at the roots for some time before he died, with a cancer. We think he starved to death. Your Aunt requested me to remember her to you in my letters. Her farm is for sale and she leaves Maine soon.

I began this letter without any address, but it is to you my Dear Son Otis, and with much love and many kisses to your wife and Guy Grace and Jamie and Chancy. I remain your affectionate Mother,

Eliza Gilmore