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3111 11/29/1865 *From:* S. L. Brown

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3054

Quartermaster  
General's Office,  
Washington, D.C.

Commissioner of Refugees  
&c  
War Department

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[86]

Quartermaster General's Office,  
Washington, D.C. Nov 29, 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of Refugees &c  
War Department  
General:

I have the honor to inform you that the Committee of the Young Mens Christian Association, having in charge the exercises connected with observance of Thursday, Nov 30th, as a day of fasting and prayer, have chosen you to preside at the meeting to be held at Rev Dr Gurleys Church, to-morrow evening at 7 ½ oclock.

If circumstances will allow of your presence you will greatly favor the Committee by notifying me of your acceptance.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obedt Servant  
S. L. Brown [Samuel Lockwood]  
Bvt. Brig. Genl. 2 A C Dept.

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3112 11/29/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* My dear brother [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3055

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Assistant  
Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and  
Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C.,

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[87, 88, 89]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia,  
Charleston, S.C., Nov. 29 1865.

My dear brother

I think I will write you a few words tonight though I have written pretty often of late & have some fears that you have hardly time for so many letters from one source.

I thought I would write this evening on account of listening to a Conversation between Capt. Ketchum & Mr. Whaley this morning.

Mr. W. said he was going to Washington & seemed to be rather excited. Capt Ketchum however was sufficiently cool. The fact is that Mr. W. is much annoyed that the lands (Islands) did not come back into the hands of the old owners just as he had expected. You know of course that there has been delay resulting from the telegram of the Sec'y of War & yours, from Mobile. Lately Capt Ketchum has been pushing the matter but Mr. Whaley objects to the Colored member of the board although some have no objections to him & he is really a worthy man –intelligent & disposed to be perfectly fair & reasonable.

Gen. Sickles said to me this afternoon that he thought it advisable to retain the Colored man on the Board. He is one of those who called upon Gen. Sherman –in that celebrated interview in Savannah. I think it likely that Mr. Whaley in his irritation may bring objections against Capt Ketchum. The fact is he & many of these people dont like any one they cannot manage in their own way. No one is better adapted to deal with them than Capt Ketchum for he will hear them patiently but will take a deliberate view of every question and do what is duty without regard to the desires of any one. I could not help observing (although ostensibly engaged with other papers & business) how well he answered Mr. Whaley. Mr. W. was defeated for Congress & this makes him very sore.

Capt. Ketchum would have interfered to to have had a white citizen selected for the Edisto Board had he received your telegram of similar instructions before it was formed. But the Colored people were allowed to make their own choice & as you have not yet required a change none has been made. I think with this colored man as a member the Board will be much more likely to arrive at a satisfactory arrangement to the negroes than any other Board could . I fact I doubt if any other Board could do any thing with them.

I find that the ex-Rebel citizens of this state are a very wily & untrustworthy people ready to take advantage when they can. At first I hoped that conciliation & kindness would induce them to take just & fair grounds but I do not now believe we may expect much more than an exterior of politeness put on for their <own sakes>. They are incapable of doing justice to the negroes & of any true loyalty to the Gov't.

It is certainly a mistake to give them political power again so hastily –especially if the negro is to be left to their mercy without the ballot to defend his own rights with. I heard that the “lack Code” had been submitted to you. At first reading that might seem fair & as much as you could expect from South Carolina. But it is utterly

rejected and allowed by the Colored by the Colored people.

They claim that the laws of the land for the governance of whites are adequate to their cases also and that this legislating against color should end with slavery. Gen. Sickles will get on admirably with Gen. Saxton. You ought to see the new <phaze inputs> upon the Military in reference to the Bureau. But I am rather tired & it is late & I will close.

You mentioned that you would ask again the promotion of Capt. Ketchum on your return to Washington. I do think he deserves it. No one could fill his place in charge of your business (of the restoration) here. Gen. Saxton still hopes Congress will give those islands to the Freedmen or lease them for them to buy at some future time.

Give much love to Lizzie & the Children.

Your affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

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3113 11/29/1865 *From:* Geo C Round

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3056

Wesleyan University  
Middleton Conn.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[90, 91]

Wesleyan University  
Middleton Conn.  
Nov. 29th 1865.

Maj. Gen. Howard,  
Dear Sir:-

I have the honor to convey to you the unanimous request of the members of the "Literary Societies of the Wesleyan University", that you be invited to deliver the Annual Address before them at our next Commencement, on the evening of Tuesday, July 16th 1866.

I presume, General, that you are well acquainted with the general character of our University, but perhaps a word in regard to it will not be out of place. It is the chief literary institution of the Methodist Church, which church we have the high authority of Edward Everett for saying "as done more for the cause of education in America than any other denomination." That you may be able to judge of the character of those who have addressed us in the past, I would mention such names as Edward Everett, Wendell Phillips, Geo. Wm. Curtis, and Geo. Thompson of Eng.

I would add moreover the infant solicitations of "The Army and Navy Union, of the Wesleyan University" composed of those who have tried to do their duty at the post of danger during the past four years.

Among this number I am proud to rank myself, having just returned to the University after an absence of 4 years & 4 mos at the front. Having served the first three years in the Army of the Potomac and afterward in Gen. Sherman's army, in the capacity of a Signal-Officer at the Head Qrs of Maj. Gen. Schofield, I had ample opportunity of learn to admire and to love you.

Having borne musket and sword under you we are anxious to see your face once more.

If your public duties should prevent the preparation of anything new, I would respectfully suggest that a repetition of your address at Gettysburg would be very satisfactory.

I am, Sir,  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
Geo C Round

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Washington D.C.

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

Middletown, Conn. Nov. 29th / 65

Round, Geo. C.

Invites Genl. Howard to deliver the annual address before the "Literary Societies of the Wesleyan University"  
July 16 / 66.

Recd. Dec. 6th 1865.

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3114 11/29/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3057

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[92]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston Nov 29, 1865

Dear Genl

In fulfilment of a promise made to a good christian brother, I have to ask you if you can, & will, the night before or after you lecture at Jamaica Plain to secure a paying course & clear a relgs society from debt?

They think that your name w'ld lift the load.

I hope you are all very well, & nicely settled. I suppose we shall know more about the designs of Government soon.

Yrs Fraternally,  
E.B. Webb

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard

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3115 11/30/1865 *From:* F.E. Heath

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3058

Portland

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[93]

Portland Nov. 30th 1865

To Maj. Genl. Howard

Sir

I am thinking of applying for an office under the Genl. Govt. (not military) and would like very much to have a letter of recommendation from you. I do not expect it unless you can give one conscientiously. If you can however please let it cover the time I served in your command, as during that time I passed through the grades of Lt., Capt., Lt. Col & Col.

I have first returned from a journey among our southern bretheren and heartily endorse your views concerning the non-withdrawal of our troops.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

F.E. Heath

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3116 11/30/1865 *From:* Thomas W. Conway *To:* Major Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3059

*Source:* Bowdoin

742 B'way, Care Genl  
Clark  
New York

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[31, 32]

Nov. 30th 1865

Major Gen Howard;  
Commissioner,  
Genl:

I have written to Gen. Fisk in order to save time and expense. I expect to hear from him any day.

I am pressed by leading citizens and by the best friends of the Bureau to proceed to England in regard to the subject which I presented to you personally when I saw you.

I am sure I can do ten times more for the promotion of the objects of the Bureau than by remaining. The results will tend greatly to give you pleasure in seeing satisfactory results of your ardent endeavors.

Should you deem it best, my present relation can remain (giving Gen'l Fisk a knowledge of the circumstances) so that my mission might have an official character, and with a view to aid the Bureau in a moral point of view.

My sincere regard for you and my lack of any unhappy feeling at some aspects of my removal in Louisiana, enables me to say that I am ready to make the best use of my time in the hope of seeing a successful consummation of your work. I am anxious that you give any turn to my mission (if I undertake it, as I presume I will) which may secure the greatest good.

Already there are pleasant indications of pleasure at the prospective results. The citizens who have brought this matter to my mind, will be glad to have such letter of advice or instruction from you (as may be deemed best by yourself) placed in my hands.

I have already written to New Orleans and I think I will be able to procure copies of such material as will enable me to give you a final report.

On hearing from Gen. Fisk, I presume I will forward my resignation, except that you would desire otherwise. I ought to leave here in a few days on my mission to Europe.

With assurances of my most cordial esteem and good-will,

I am, respectfully your obt servt  
Thomas W. Conway  
742 B'way, Care Genl Clark

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

New York, Nov 20, 1865 [should have been Nov 30.]

Conway, Thos. W.

Relative to his going to England for the purpose of encouraging capitalists there to engage in the cultivation of cotton in the South.

Rec'd Dec. 2, 1865

Ansd. Dec 2, 1865

[Clipping from Evg Post Nov. 30th. 65

A Useful Enterprise.

Mr. Conway, late Assistant Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and abandoned Lands in Louisiana, is, we hear, about to proceed to England for the purpose of encouraging English capitalists to

engage in the cultivation of cotton by the help of the freedmen of the southern states.

This project is important not only to whites and blacks in the South, but to our general commercial interests. It is well known that for want of capital not one-half the rich lands of the states lately in revolt can be cultivated this year. It is likewise well known that the inability of most southern planters to pay the freedmen frequently and in full, is the principal cause of the distrust and disaffection in the minds of the laborers, and of the annoyance and distress experience by the employers.

The freedmen, in addition to their natural dislike of those who held them as slaves, become restless and uneasy because they are not paid regularly, and the two things working together cause vexation and difficulty, which can only be remedied by the introduction of abundance of ready capital. This can be had in the northern states and in England. Our people here have had the opportunity to become fully aware of the facts connected with this subject, but it is not so with men on the other side of the ocean, and hence the importance of Mr. Conway's mission.

From Mr. Conway's long experience in the South, among both planters and freedmen, we believe him fully competent to represent the subject so as to interest practical men, and especially the many friends of the freedmen in Europe.

We understand that Mr. Conway will leave in a few days, and that he will take with him letters from many of our leading citizens, who are cordially in sympathy with his effort. The Chamber of Commerce will probably take special notice of it, and recommend Mr. Conway to the attention of its corresponding bodies abroad.