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3117 12/1/1865     *From:* Wm King

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

OOH-3060

Marietta Cobb Co Ga

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[94]

Marietta Cobb Co Ga  
1 Dec 1865

Washington D.C.  
Maj. Genl. Howard  
My dear Sir

I wrote to you on the 18th ult. while in Virginia, and asked the favor of your writing to me, at your earliest convenience, directing to Savannah, informing me of your determination on the Labor System. On my arrival here, finding things in such an unsettled condition, that duty requires me to remain here a while, probably some weeks, to place my family in a condition of greater comfort, before leaving there. If you have not yet written to me, may I ask the favor of your addressing your Letter to me at this place - "Marrietta Cobb County Geo:" mail via Lynchburg Va.

Allow me to trespass on your kindness for a personal favor. My brother-in-Law Richard H Macleod and Mrs King's cousin Jacob Waldburg, both of Chatham County Gen, transmitted to the president their applications for pardon last July & August and not having yet received them, they are becoming very anxious, to enable them to make some disposition of their Landed property in time for the coming year's crops, which is important to be done before the 1st Jan'y; will you oblige me by obtaining their pardons of the president and transmitting the Vouchers to me here for them as early as practicable –no objections can be made to either of their applications I think, for neither has been in the confederate service, and Mr Waldburg an old gentleman of 73 years and always opposed to secession. You will greatly oblige me still farther by granting an order for Mr Jacob Waldburg ot have restored to him his Landed property, known as St. Catherines Island Liberty County Geo: he owns the whole Island, about 20,000 acres; Mr. Waldburg is to pay me a fee of \$500 if I can get him placed in possession of that Island before before 1st January next –a sum much needed by me now, and which will refund my expenses while at the North the past summer and fall. If you can bestow upon me any office of profit (not for honor I seek) in this state, I should be pleased to accept it for a while the future still being very dark.

Very respy General  
Your Obt Serv  
Wm King

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3118 12/1/1865 *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3061

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[96, 97, 98]

Raleigh Dec. 1st 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear General

I am glad to see that you have returned to Washington & are nearly ready with your report for the information of Congress. The Govt seems to have been stiffened by the elections North & South. In this State the result shows the temper of the people, tho' the defeat of Holden is rather due to his old party record than to his present position. But it is evident all over the south, that the colored race cannot be safely left in the hands of the late Masters or the Southern people. Just as sure as that is done such oppressive laws will be enacted, that the blacks will be driven to desperation & the scenes lately witnessed in Jamaica will be reenacted in many sections of our own country. I do hope that Congress will grasp the whole subject, & show itself master of the situation.

No Legislation "for freedmen" should be allowed; it is not consistent with a republican form of gov't. All laws should apply to all races alike. Give equal rights to white & blacks; impose the same taxes, the same duties, the same penalties for crime, and then execute the laws with simple justice, and the result will be peace, safety, prosperity.

But the white people in this State are not yet ready to treat black men justly. Therefore the Federal Government ought ot retain control. Our military force ought to be increased, not reduced. For some districts I could not now safely travel in U.S. uniform. As our troops disappear & bayonets are no longer feared the smothered hatred of Union men begins to break out. Yesterday a woman (white) appealed to me for redress against an army of rebels, who tore down her house, beat herself, & had some months ago killed her husband because they were "damned yankees." Last week a young man was stoned & threatened in Graham because he had opened a "nigger school". Without a larger military force it will be impossible to protect our teachers even from violence.

By a new muster out of Regts, I lose 9 of my officers, but I hope to fill their places soon.

After Jan 1st I mean to make you a visit; & then if we are to continue this work, I shall make a strong effort to get rank equal to that of some of the younger men who are doing less work, & have comparatively no responsibility. I have many offers of a business kind that would be worth twice my office, but I am disposed to work this problem out first.

Some of Maj. Fowlers endorsements & orders are so perplexing that I am obliged to send them back. I am too much of a soldier to disobey orders, but in some instances the orders involve principles & precedents which would cause me great trouble. Yesterday I was ordered to Annul a lease of the Gaston House in New Bern. The lease was made by Col. Heaton last February & will expire in Feb. '66. the Lesser Mr. Fisher claims that he made the bargain & has paid the rent in good faith, that he made all his contracts for clerks, servants &c needed in a large Hotel for the year, & that his ejection now would do him great damage. Major F. has not heard his side of the story. I have not in any case annulled or cancelled a lease, & shall not do it, except upon your imperative order.

I enclose with this, but on a separate page a request that you will use your influence to get a pardon for Gen. Bryan Grimes of this city. My reason is that Gen. Gaines has a large farm, & is willing to settle down quietly upon it, & employ some 60 or 70 freedmen at good wages. But without his pardon he feels that it is unsafe to undertake any large business.

I must bring this long letter to a close. Please remember me to your family & all our friends at the "Freedmen's Boarding House."

Yours truly  
E. Whittlesey

P.S. I think Capt James will resign soon. I will put Capt. Seely in his place. Both those officers ought to have increased rank. Nothing has been heard about Beecher promotion. E.W.

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3119 12/1/1865 *From:* F.D. Sewall

*To:* My dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3062

Brattleboro Vt

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[99]

Brattleboro Vt Dec 1st 1865

My dear Genl -

I understand that the officers of the V.R.C. are to be ordered to their respective places of residences, I suppose with a view to the discharge of such as have no duties to perform.

I, as I have before written you, much desire to remain in the service, and if you can secure a detail for me in your Bureau, or for other duty, I would much like it.

I dislike to trouble you so frequently, as I know your attention and time must be much engrossed.

I shall go to Bath, and my P.O. Address will be there for the present.

I am Genl. very Respectfully  
and Truly Yrs  
F.D. Sewall  
Col. V.R.C. &  
Bt. Brig. General

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3120 12/1/1865 *From:* Wm. W. Thayer

*To:* Major Gen'l O.O. Howard

OOH-3063

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[100, 101]

Boston Dec 1" 65

Major Gen'l O.O. Howard  
General

I am directed by Major Geo. L. Stearns of this City to request you to forward to him at your earliest convenience a list of the assistant Superintendents of the Freedmen's Bureau together with their addresses in order that I may send to them through your hands, copies of the paper "The Right Way" every week.

If I can have such list I can write the addresses on wrappers and send them to you in packages of one hundred each, for you to distribute, or have distributed. Please direct either to Major Stearns or to "The Right Way".

Resp.  
Wm. W. Thayer, Publisher

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

Boston Dec 1, 1865

Thayer Wm. W.

Asks for addresses of Asst. Comms.

Recd Dec 3d 1865

Ansd Dec 4th 1865

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3121 12/2/1865 *From:* H. Balling

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

OOH-3064

New York City  
Clinton Hall

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[95]

New York City  
Clinton Hall Dec 2d 65

Maj. Gen. Howard  
Dear Sir

For a year and a half I have been engaged on a very large painting representing Genl. Grant and his principal Generals. You are of cours in the composition and I saw you on the grand review in Washington but my whole time there was taken up to get studies of Gen. Sherman. I went to Richmond this summer but found you gone. I made my studies of Gen. Terry who I requested to remember me to you. I am now about finishing the work, and although Officers that know you well, consider your portrait good, even Gen. Grant, who visited my studio the other day, was of the same opinion, yet I would desi'er, if you should not come here before long, to have a card photograph of you with hat on –you are all on horseback, - and a mi'nut discription of colors, hair, eyes, baird &c. I wish to be as corect as possible and hope you will oblige in this.

Your most respectfully  
H. Balling [Ole Peter Hansen Balling]

[Attached calling card]  
H. Balling  
Artist  
Clinton Hall  
(Room 14) Astor Place

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3122 12/3/1865     *From:* J. W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3065

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office Assistant  
Commissioner, State of  
Alabama  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, and  
Abandoned Lands  
Montgomery, Ala

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[142]

Office Assistant Commissioner, State of Alabama  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands  
Montgomery, Ala, Dec 3rd 1865

To Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
General

I have the honor of enclosing to you clippings from the papers here, showing actions of the Legislators on the subject of Freedmen &c.

Genl Swayne is doing much to put and keep things right – his theory being admirable & himself a thorough, excellent man. But it is apparent, on all sides, that the planters do not intend to loosen their grasp upon the negro practically. Their talk on trains, in hotels, & discussions in the legislature, show fixed purpose to oppose his elevation. The military alone hold them back from violence. All contracts & leases are to be crippled as you see, and schools will be crushed if possible. There is a much lower condition of negro <pauperism> here than on the coast. Your Bureau must be continued. It is the Freedmans only hope.

Yours &c, very Respectfully  
J. W. Alvord

I go to Atlanta & so on to Augusta tomorrow.  
J.W.A.

[Written Sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Montgomery, Ala. Dec 3/65  
Alvord, J.W.  
Friendly letter of information  
Recd. Dec. 7th, 1865

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3123 12/4/1865

*From:* Hermann Bokum

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3066

*Source:* Bowdoin

Department of State  
Bureau of Immigration  
Washington

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[102]

Department of State  
Bureau of Immigration  
Washington, December 4, 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard,

Rudolph Koradi, Esquire, the Swiss Consul at Philadelphia has handed me a Series of remarks, made by a Swiss Gentleman, in a Swiss newspaper in the German language. I enclose a translation. They are good, indeed! Will you be kind enough to send me some reply to the inquiries I took the liberty of addressing to you the other day in the name of Mr. Koradi?

1. A testimony with regard to the reliability of the officers connected with the Freedmen's Bureau?
2. Would it be best to make the proposed contributions in money or in goods purchased in Europe?

If it should not be proper for the United States to receive gifts in this way, is it in your power to point out to our Swiss friend the best channel for these contributions.

I am, Sir,  
Your brother in Christ  
Hermann Bokum



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3124 12/4/1865 *From:* John D. Myrick

*To:* My Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3067

Norfolk Va

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[105]

Norfolk Va  
Dec 4th 1865

My Dear General

Yours of the 24th came duly to hand – and I was glad to learn that you had been touring through the South for your presence in the South always is followed with a great deal of good. And I am in hopes you will meet the South very often. The Southern people admire you very much & your policy. All know you are doing every thing for the best. And that you are equal to the emergency. I am sorry that my business arrangements are such, that I can not attend the cotton convention in New York. It would give me a great deal of pleasure. But I marry on the 20th a Spanish Creole in Montgomery. I wish you were along. I will then go to my plantation in Florida, and remain a short time & then return. All of my negroes are still with me. Not one has left. On my return from the South, I will publish my Book. Enclosed I send you a picture of the Lady to be the companion of my heart.

I am Genl.  
Most Respetly  
Your friend  
John D. Myrick

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Norfolk Dec 4, 1865  
Myrick, Maj. J.D.  
Friendly letter  
Recd Dec 6th, 1865

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3125 12/4/1865    *From:* Godfrey Rider Jr    *To:* Mg. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3068                      Custom House, Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[106]

Custom House, Boston,  
December 4th 1865

Mg. Genl. Howard  
Dr. Genl

I have no papers from any Genl in relation to my labors in the War and as I was under you a long time and you know me as well as anyone I would like some kind of a testimonial from you, for future use, or for my children to look upon in the future. As you are greatly loved and esteemed, as a soldier & christian, I consider your approval entirely sufficient.

I am a clerk in this office, and when you arrive here to lecture to us, I hope to see you.

My regards to your brother Charles.

I hope you are well General

Your Obt Servt  
Godfrey Rider Jr  
Late Comdg 33<sup>rd</sup> Regt Mass. Vol. Inft

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Custom House, Boston  
Dec 4th, 1865  
Rider, jr. Godfry [sic]  
Desires a recommendation to keep in his family.  
Recd. Dec. 6th 1865

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3126 12/4/1865

*From:* R. Saxton

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3069

*Source:* Bowdoin

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

Commissioner

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[107]

Personal  
Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
South Carolina and Georgia  
Charleston, S.C. Dec 4th 1865

Dear General,

I received this morning your message from your brother with regard to my probable removal from my present position in South Carolina and asking me in what western state I would like duty in the bureau. I greatly regret that my administration in South Carolina has not met with the approval of the President. I can only say that in all respects I have endeavored to act strictly in accordance with my orders and in those cases where a discretionary power was left me from conscientious convictions of duty. Were I assigned to any other state I could not act differently. I am content to remain in this work here as long as I am wanted, but should it be deemed for the best interests of the service that I be relieved from this Department I do not think it would be best to assign me to any other.

In the event of my removal it would of course be pleasant for me to be ordered to report to General Grant for duty with my present rank, as I suppose the only other alternative is my Captaincy in the regular army but even that is preferable to commencing the whole work over again in a new state. With the record I have had in this state and during the war I should be no more acceptable to the late slave holders elsewhere than I am here.

With many thanks for having so kindly shown your interest in my case.

I am very truly  
Your friend  
R. Saxton  
Bvt Maj Genl  
Asst Comm.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Charleston S.C. Dec. 4th 1865  
Saxton, Rufus  
Maj. Genl.  
Friendly letter.  
Recd. Dec. 9th 1865

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3127 12/4/1865 *From:* L M Monel

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3070

Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169]

<> Mass

[ca Dec. 4, 1865] [the date was written in pencil.]

Dear Genl,

Allow me to trouble you to read the enclosed.

I think Col. Sewall a competent office, but dont have as you have any use of him.

Respectfully yours

<L M Monel>

Maj Genl Howard

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3128 12/5/1865 *From:* Wm Henry Trescot

*To:* Major Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3071

Columbia [SC]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[13, 14]

Private & Unofficial

Columbia

December 5, 1865

My Dear General

I received your telegram yesterday in reply to mine in reference to Captain Ketchums action and the exchange of General Saxton. I regret very much that the exchange has not been effected and the more as I learn by letters from Charleston today that Captain Ketchum refuses to compel contracts unless the owners are willing to lease or sell to the freedmen. If this is so it is a direct violation of all that I understood from the President's orders and your instructions. I have neither desire nore intention to censure your conduct which I have in all our intercourse found consistent and true but I am forced to infer that you have been overruled that the experiment which you proposed to make has been abandoned and that a policy of continued spoileation instead of gradual conciliation has been resolved on. I believe the consequences will be miserable. I am sure that if the Bureau had not perseveringly interfered against the planter that this question of labour would have adjusted itself gradually. The planter would have found that free labour has great advantages and once the negro understood that he must work, he would have worked. Of course for some years there would have been difficulties, the negro would not do as much as he could, the planter would expect more than he ought. But it would have come right. A great deal that you do not understand an a great deal that we do not understand would hae explained itself to both of us. I had determined to try the experiment fairly even if I leased my lands to my former slaves for the next year without profit. I was willing, perfectly willing to loose a year to ascertain upon what true basis our future relations could rest. But what can we do with this persistent bitter determination to excite and exaggerate the antagonism between the races? I will not stop now to argue the individual injustice or the vocation of general right unsolved in the administration of the Bureau in S.C. but let me ask you –putting us out of the question to consider as a statesman what must be the consequence of giving their lands to the freedmen.

1. You add to the antagonism which recent events have naturally execute but which time will as naturally mitigate, all the bitterness which unjust and tyrannical spoileation must and will provoke. You put the state and the freedman at arms length. And yet in that state he must live and you make a condition of things requiring a perpetual, costly and contentious interference on your part.
2. You willfully destroy the productive energy and capability of the richest portion of the state by leaving laborer without the help of capital for capital will not invest in negro industry or negro enterprise. Either the negro will be supplanted by capital (the only difference between which and us will be that it is not ours –for in no cause will it be his or will drag out a bare existence creating barrenness all around him.
3. You place the negro on the sea coast which the interior needs for its commercial development and from which this necessity will drive him or where he must stand, stopping every rail road, chopping up every harbour and neither using the advantages which God has given the country, nor permitting us to use it.

Do you suppose if Hayte was a sea coast county of Massachusetts or New York that its existence would be tolerated for twenty years. Do you not know that the enterprise of their great commonwealth would sweep such an encumbrance away, and rely upon it that to give the negro possession now will be merely to dispossess us to make way for other white men who will benefit by our loss. If this is what you mean –if this is the mode of punishment –so be it–but say so.

I regret all this for I really thought that your honesty and sincerity would aid us to get through this crisis unto better times. I wish the experiment of free black labour to succeed. I have been brought up among negroes, have lived among them, and owe them much of the comfort and pleasure of my life. Their labour has given me wealth, leisure and opportunity. I do not wish to see them perish from the fore to which they are so much attached and for which they have done so much. But if a mistaken policy will have it so, it must be so for yours

is the power but so also will yours be the responsibility.

Believe me with all our differences of opinion

Yours respectfully  
& kindly  
Wm Henry Trescot

Major Gen Howard

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Columbia Nov. 4/65  
Trescott, Wm Henry  
Concerning the restoration of the Sea islands.  
Recd Dec. 12th 1866