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3138 12/11/1865 *From:* William J. Maynard

*To:* Frdk S Winston

OOH-3081

Ann Arbor Mich

Pres N.Y. M. Life Ins Co

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[190, 191]

Ann Arbor Mich  
Dec 11th 1865

Frdk S Winston Esq  
Pres N.Y. M. Life Ins Co  
Dear Sir

I take pleasure in recommending to you Revd. Samuel Day, late U.S. Chaplain & Com. Sanitary Supplies for Michigan. I have been well acquainted with him pervious to, and during the War and with his services, in the above capacity, & he has always sustained a good christian <> character is energetic and of good capacity peculiarly qualified as a <lecturer>, and business man for any place requiring correct business tact and habits.

Respt Yours  
William J. Maynard  
Mayor City of Ann Arbor

[Appended to the bottom of the above letter.]

From a personal acquaintance with rev. Mr. Day, & a special knowledge of his extraordinary success as a Commissioner of Supplies &c I fully endorse the above.  
E.O. Haven, Prest of Un. of Mich.

[Appended to the above.]

From an acquaintance with Mr. Day of about three years, & considerable knowledge of his remarkable success in soliciting aid for the Sanitary Commission, I have no hesitation in saying that he is remarkably qualified for the position mentioned, & that the Company could not possibly, in my opinion, make a better appointment in the State.

T.M. Cooley  
One of the Judges of the Supreme Court of Mich.

[Appended to the above.]

I heartily concur in the above recommendation.  
Stephens Felch  
Ex. Gov. Mich.

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

See Harmon Judge of Probate

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3139 12/11/1865 *From:* J.W. Alvord

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3082

Savannah

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[122, 123]

Savannah Dec 11, 1865

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Dear General

I drop you an occasional line to let you know I am not idle. Have been with Genl Tillson for the last four days. He is acting with great vigor on as I think a right plan.

The planters are coming to terms on the subject of wages. They will offer 12 to 15 Dolls per month (& food) in many cases and this we think a fair price for first class hands. It is hoped that even the latter price will become the standard on at least the large Sea coast and rice plantations. He had a very interesting meeting with the planters, also one with the leading men of the colored people on Saturday.

Our Self Supporting Schools here are doing well as when you was here. Genl Tillson helps them out of debt with the money in Genl <Thomas> hands as you directed, & the people are full of joy & very grateful to you for this help. I shall make a good report to you of this class of school throughout all the route I have taken. In connection with simply arranged normal schools preparing colored teachers for the <intension> this alone can better the system of popular education for the negroes at present throughout all the South. We will thus bring the great majority of the young very soon into a knowledge of the common things of a common education, which must do for the time being. Let the associations of the north bring us better schools so far as they can, but I am persuaded that the masses must depend upon their own color for some sort of education at least during this chaotic period of reconstruction. You saw what could be done in the school you visited while here in Savannah. I will add, a portion of these schools are soon to be excluded from the building they now occupy, but Genl Tillson has ordered that another shall be prepared for them.

The Bradley case is a bad one. I forbear to comment upon it until after the trial. The man will make capital out of what he will call pretentions. I have no doubt, Genl T. & Col Sickles are acting judiciously in the case I think.

My Banks are destined to prosper so far as I can judge – all friends of the negro hail them as just the thing. The negroes will be drawn to them almost universally. I am placing them at all points. This is what detains me so. All say that now is the time to start them, as the crops and money are now coming in. Your brother Charles was here Saturday on his way to the lower coast. He is full of zeal & doing well. I go to Beaufort tomorrow for the transfer of the Bank there, & then to Charleston. If you have any commands please send them to the latter place.

Kind regards to Mrs Howard & all the dear family. See you are fetching up nobly in Washington. Strike, in your new Bill for all you want. The Divine blessing is upon us. Let us move forward hopefully, gratefully.

Yours as ever  
Very Respectfully  
J.W. Alvord

P.S. General Tsillson assures me that there is not to be the great destitution and suffering in Georgia which Mr French spoke of in his public meeting in New York. In November there are 1870 persons only, fed by the Government in all Georgia – 763 of these were in Hospitals and 372 of them were whites. In Alabama also, so far as I could learn, the destitution will be far less than was estimated by Genl Swayne.

Genl Tillson says that if his plans for labor and contracts succeed he will not have, out of hospitals, a single person to feed in the whole state after a month or two. Sure I am he is striving very hard to reach the very desirable end.

Yrs &c

J.W.A.

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

Savannah, Dec 11 1865

Alvord, J.W.

Letter of Information

Recd Dec. 21st 1865

[Attached newspaper clipping.]

White Labor Agency

Rates of Hire of White Labor

Laborers

Men, per year \$150.00

Women per year 100.00

Children, of 12 or 14 years of age, per year 50.00

House Servants, per month 15.00

Payable at the end of the year.

They contract for one year, to do the same work as the negro, live in the same cabins, and on the same rations; clothe themselves, and pay their own doctor's bills. Time lost by sickness deducted from wages.

One in every six of Germans agree to speak English.

Cost of transportation, \$20 per head, to accompany orders, but to be deducted from wages.

Dillard, McMinn & Co.

Agents

An order will be forwarded to New York every Saturday.

Dillard, McMinn & Co.

[Another clipping]

What the Radicals say of the Alabama Senators -

The most encouraging sign that any Southern State has yet given, we take to be the election of George S. Houston and Lewis E. Parsons to the United States Senate for Alabama. Mr. Houston was a Union man in 1861, and we believe he never took any part in rebel politics. We heard, occasionally, all through the four years of the war, of his speaking his mind with much freedom upon the iniquity of secession. From the pugnacity of his nature we make no doubt he is now a radical.

As for General Parsons, his position is clear. These manly words from his message to the Legislature mark him as the man for the hour:

The people of Alabama in convention assembled have forever prohibited slavery; in doing so they have forever established liberty. Let us boldly, watchfully, and with unflinching purpose pursue the grand idea. - Wash. Republican

[Another clipping]

and Sykes.

The Senate took up the Senate bill to provide more effectually for the distribution of food among the destitute families of this State, which had been amended by the House by adding two sections. The Senate concurred in the amendments, and the bill passed finally.

The Senate took up the House bill entitled An act to protect the freedmen of the State of Alabama ; which was referred to the Committee on Freedmen.

A bill to incorporate the Alabama Emigration White Labor and Real Estate Agency was taken up.

Mr. Wilkinson made an earnest speech in opposition to this bill. He argued that the white labor proposed to be introduced would be of poor character, and less valuable to the cotton planters than the labor of the freedmen, all ready to hand who cannot and should be driven out. The freedmen are worth more to us as laborers than any

set of men in any country.

Mr. Huckabee – Considered that the parties seeking the passage of this act could do nearly all that the bill gave them the power to do without it – it merely added something of dignity to their business and gave them power to hold their agents responsible for monies in their hands. He denied that we had labor enough. There was lack of labor before the war and the supply had been very much diminished. The same amount of labor that he formerly performed, could not now be obtained by the individual. We cannot now depend upon more than one fourth of the productive labor that we formerly had, and labor is our means of wealth. There were other interests besides cotton raising to be considered, and we ought to encourage the introduction of fresh labor by every means.

Mr. Wood thought we needed no foreigners among us unless they brought wealth or intelligence.

Mr. Barnes favored the bill. He hoped to bring the factories to the side of the cotton fields, to develop the wealth of the State by enterprise and labor within her own borders, to have the men of the State no longer overseers and agents for people without its limits. He believed this was a white man's government, and while willing to do all that any man would reasonably ask for the protection and welfare of the negro, he favored the introduction of all the labor that could be brought. He wanted competition in the field of labor, that every man might have the choice of such labor as he might deem the best for his interests.

Mr. Felder commented upon the provisions of the bill to show that there was nothing objectionable in it.

Mr. Drake eloquently opposed the bill.

Mr. Lindsay continued the debate in an earnest speech in reply to the Senators from Madison and Pike.

The bill passed by a vote of 20 to 13.

A message from the House was received stating that the House requested the return of the bill to protect freedmen, on which the House had voted to disagree to the report of the Conference Committee.

The Senate returned the bill.

Mr. Kilpatrick, from the Judiciary Committee to allow the Commissioners' Court of Morgan county to issue County treasury notes. Passed.

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3140 12/11/1865 *From:* Mrs. Dr. Wren

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3083

Montgomery, Alabama

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[124]

Montgomery, Alabama  
Dec 11th 1865

Gen. Howard  
Respected Sir

You may recollect me as matron of the 61st Regt N.Y.V.V. serving under your Command at Fort Worth Va. The last few months I am residing with my Daughter – a Reb in Montgomery Alabama.

They are trying Hard to get white Laborer – and the Enclosed Paragraph will show at a High Rate. Now I take this liberty, to Justify as an impartial Witness that the Cry of the Dorkeye not being willing to Hire, & to work – when they are engaged is all false. I have been Hiring –and have been watching the Course of Events the last five years among them and own that I have oftener come in contact with but one Nancy Dorkey & she was a Northerer.

Many Here are now suffering for want of Homes & Food, and I do Hope & Pray, if it is in your Power, you will Prevent them, Deluding the Poor Confiding Germans to come Here, to be Hired & Ruined.

Ever your well wisher - Dear General -  
Mrs. Dr. Wren

P.S. We have at the Present time a good cook at \$4.00 per month, and a House Girl at \$5.00 what more can be wanted.

I ought to tell How shamefully they charge the Poor Negroes for rent – a Poor Barn with no fire place \$20.00 per month & every thing in ratio – indeed the Southerners seem determined to Exterminate them. My own Daughter Crys is send them away or kill them. No Reason any of them.

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Montgomery Ala. Dec. 11, 1865  
Wren, Mrs. Dr.  
Writes concerning treatment of negroes in Ala.  
Recd Dec. 16th 1865.

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3141 12/11/1865 *From:* Chas G. Halpine

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard,  
U.S.A.

OOH-3084

Citizen Office, N.Y.

Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[125]

Citizen Office, N.Y.  
Decr. 11th, 1865

Maj. Gen. Howard, U.S.A.  
Freedman's Bureau  
My dear General:

I write in the case of a worthy & gallant officer, Captn Thos. Leddy, now of the 16th V.R. Corps & formerly of the 69th N.Y. Vols, who was present in ten battles of the A. of the P., & badly wounded twice – at Fredericksburgh and Malvern Hill. He is now about being mustered out, & I wish for him if possible a place in the Freedmans Bureau. He is of excellent character, of sober & steady habits, has the highest recommendations possible, & I think would make a capital officer – one firm & yet gentle.

Begging an answer at your earliest convenience,

Believe me ever (with pleasant memories of Gettysburgh)  
Your friend & Servt,  
Chas G. Halpine  
("MO'R.") [He wrote under the pseudonym, Miles O'Reilly.]

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

Citizen Office  
New York Dec. 11, 1865  
Halpine, Chas. G.  
"MO'R"

Recommends for detail into the Bureau of Capt. Thos. Leddy, 16th Regt. V.R.C.  
Recd. Dec. 12th, 1865  
Ask form next list [written in pencil]

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3142 12/12/1865 *From:* Ed. S. Meyer

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3085

Hd. Qrs. Battery  
Barracks,  
New York City

Washington, D.C.

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*Source:* Bowdoin

[129]

Hd. Qrs. Battery Barracks,  
New York City, Dec. 12, 1865.

General:

You will forgive me for making so bold as to seek your attention for a few moments, to which your enviable reputation, not only as a great soldier, but also as a warm hearted and devoted Christian prompts me. My desire is to receive from you a note of recommendation to the Hon. Secy of War, for appointment to one of the vacant 1st Lieutenancies in the Infantry Arm of the U. S. Army.

I enlisted as private in April 1861, and have served in the field since that time –the last four years have served as a commissioned Officer serving under your Command as senior Captain of the 107th Ohio Vol. Inf. in the 11th Army Corps. I soon, after the Regiment was transferred to the Department of the South, rose to the command of my Regiment, which I retained until honorably discharged, when I immediately accepted my present position in General Hancock's Corps.

You will probably recollect me as the Captain who at Chancellorsville received the wound which caused the amputation of the Lower jaw, and the insertion of an artificial structure. This wound has however not in the least disfigured my face nor has it injured my voice in common conversation; though it has incapacitated me for my former profession, the Practice of the Law, and therefore I desire to remain in the Army. Another, and more important reason for my desiring to so remain is that while lying wounded for twelve days upon the battle field in the hands of the enemy, it pleased Almighty God to convict and extend to my sinful heart, as I earnestly trust, the grace of Conversion, which prompted my espousing, as soon as well enough, the cause of our blessed Master in an <audible> profession of Religion by uniting with the Baptist Church. For so doing my father (the Hon. J. Meyer, of Ohio) who is a rigid Roman Catholic, in his misguided sense of his christian duty, at once disinherited and disowned me. But thank God, I have imputed to me strength to bear it for the blessed cause, knowing it is His holy will who "oeth all for the best."

Asking your forgiveness for the freedom I have taken in this letter, and hoping for the assistance of your valuable influence, I have the honor to be, General,

Very respectfully  
Your most obdt svt  
Ed. S. Meyer,  
Major 5th U.S.V.O.

Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York City, Dec. 12th 1865  
Meyer, Ed. S.  
Major 5th U.S.V.O. Hancocks Corps  
Desires recommendation for appt in Regular Army  
Recd Dec. 13th 1865

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3143 12/12/1865 *From:* C.H. Howard

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

OOH-3086

Darien Ga.

Com'r Bureau R.F. &c  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[135, 136]

Darien Ga.  
Dec. 12 1865

Dear brother

I wrote you just as I was starting on this tour. Have since met Gen. Tillson in Savannah and Mr. Alvord. The former had come down to facilitate the renewal of Contracts. I heard him talk an hour to the planters & was much pleased at his manner of dealing with them. He is fearless in his claims for the just rights of the Freedmen.

But his project of civilian opposites of the Bureau is not yet fairly in operation. I have many fears about his being able to obtain reliable friends of the negro for this work. Will report further after my tour. Here & in the vicinity very little has been done for the freedmen. The officers tell me they had orders from Gen. Brannan not to interfere at all with Freedmen's affairs but refer them to Savannah, but this being 100 miles distant is the same as no relief whatever.

The white troops (12th Maine) returned today to relieve the Colored & the Freedmen say that when here before the White troops did them constant injury – robbing & maltreating them in every way. Some good union citizens (traders from the north – Mr. Davis & Mr. Gillson) say that the Colored troops have behaved better than the White but today by Gen. Brannan's order & in accordance with petition of the ex-Rebel citizens the 12th Maine troops return & relieve the Colored.

But I did not write this time to report these things only I know you like information. I have thought since leaving Charleston that I would like, if you think it desirable, to visit Washington as soon as I get through Georgia. I shall probably go to Tallahassee & have recently been through the interior of So. Ca.

I thought I could perhaps give valuable information to yourself & such of our friends now in Washington as desire to inquire about the state of things. Besides, in thinking over the matter of the biography (of yourself) on which I have lately been engaged in my leisure hours, I have very much wished to rearrange & rewrite certain portions. If published it will be my first appearance in real substantive book form & this is to be a very elegant & valuable work. I owe it to myself & to you & to the publishers to put it in the best possible shape. Now if you think the course may be subserved by ordering me temporarily to Washington – say to remain a week – I would like to have it done – and have the order sent either by telegraph or otherwise to meet me at Charleston on my return say about Dec. 25th or 28th inst.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bureau R.F. &c  
Washington D.C.

P.S. There is some chance of my Regt. being mustered out or consolidated with 33d U.S.C.T. & in the latter case a chance of my & Capt. Ketchum being mustered out.

C.H.H.

[Written in red ink, in a different hand.] Recd. Dec. 20th 1865

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3144 12/12/1865 *From:* E.B. Webb

*To:* Dear Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-3087

638 Tremont St.  
Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[137, 138]

638 Tremont St.  
Boston Dec 12, 1865

Dear Gen'l Howard,

I have engaged you to lecture at Jamaica Plain – you are to give the lecture – they are to pay your expenses to & from Washington. The cause is worthy. Now let me know for the sake of the Young Men's X Association when you will lecture for them & so when for this refs Society.

The Young Men of Boston must have you first in this neighborhood – i.e. before you lecture in the vicinity. Next after the lecture at Portland they expect the lecture in Boston.

Just name the evenings & places at the earliest moment so that the halls can be engaged.

Hope you are all well.

But what means this return of rebels & surrender of lands by the Freedmen to their old, guilty, blood-stained, impertinent Masters?

I shall take no collection for Freedmen whom the Government displace, & deprive of the means of subsistence, & turn adrift for the sake of reinstating men who are the cause of all our woe. Let us have a little justice as well as such mercy to the white man & such awful severity to the Black man.

These may be difficulties, I doubt not there are, in the way of the right course, but let Congress make a way. So far as some of us are concerned we are disposed to let Government feel the pressure of the misery wh acts if pardon & restoration are causing till something is done for the freedmen by the govt. itself.

One white man who has forfeited land & life had better be landless & lifeless than 100 negroes who have forfeited neither, & in many instances deserve both life & land.

Fraternally,  
E.B. Webb.

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

Boston, Dec. 12th 1865

Webb, E.B.

Sladen answer

Recd Dec 14th 1865

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3145 12/12/1865 *From:* Thaddeus Stevens

*To:* Maj. Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3088

Washington

Com. Freedman's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

Washington Dec. 12. 1865

Maj. Genl Howard  
Com. Freedman's Bureau  
Sir,

Allow me to recommend to you Lt. Jones, and ask that he may be assigned to your department. He desires to be ordered to some Southern Post or position. He is a gentleman of much intelligence, good morals, sober and industrious.

I think he would be useful to you.

Thaddeus Stevens

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Washington, Dec. 12th 1865  
Stevens, Thaddeus M.C.  
Recommends Lt. Jones for employment in the Bureau.  
Recd. Dec 13 1865.

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3146 12/12/1865 *From:* E. Whittlesey

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3089

Raleigh

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[140, 141]

Raleigh Dec. 12, 1865

Dear General

Your letter is this morning received. I will comply cheerfully with your request to visit you in January, & shall be glad to talk over our affairs with you & other friends in Washington.

The slip from the Boston Commonwealth is rather hard on Barnett. I saw his "Address to freedmen" some time ago and wrote to him a sufficiently severe reprimand. He was not chosen by me for the place he fills – you know that we cannot often select our officers, we must take such as are given or none. But after all his blunders in that foolish address, he is a vigorous officer, & has worked hard, & done more to protect the freedmen, than a thousand such foolish fanatical scribblers as the writer of that article in the Commonwealth ever did or ever will do. They all look upon him as their friend & defender, while the ill disposed whites fear him as a just & swift avenger of wrong. He has enforced more fines & penalties upon men for abusing freedmen than any officer in the State.

Let fools prate, we need not heed them. We are doing a good work, & trying to do good to all, not excepting even Sinners & Slave holders & traitors. I don't think we shall ever be rebuked by our Master for this.

Very truly yours,  
E. Whittlesey

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

Raleigh, N.C. Dec. 12, 1865

Whittlesey, E. Col. & A.C.

Friendly letter

Extract for Commonwealth

Recd Dec 14th 1865

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3147 12/12/1865 *From:* F. D. Sewall

*To:* Hon. L. M. Morrell

OOH-3090

Bath Me.

U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170, 171]

Bath Me. Dec. 12th 1865

Hon. L. M. Morrell  
U.S. Senate  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir

Recent orders from the War Department, send nearly, if not quite all of the Officers of the Vt. Res. Corps, to their homes, there to await further orders. This I presume is with a view to their discharge.

Some however, have, as I am informed, been retained on duty in the Freedmen's Bureau and elsewhere.

If practicable, I desire to remain in the service. I prefer it to any other occupation, and an absence of four years has quite destroyed my former practice, which I find will be difficult to recover.

There are yet various duties, which call for the employment of officers, and I would be glad if such a detail could be secured for me, either in the Freedmen's Bureau, or on any duty where I can be of service to the Govt. I am not unmindful of the fact, that the Officers of the regular army are opposed to the employment of Officers of Volunteer organizations in time of peace, except in some very subordinate positions.

If the organization of the Vt. Res. Corps is to be broken up, and the regular army increased, will there not be some provision for the appointment of Officers of Vols. with equal rank into the army?

I dislike to trouble you, for I am sensible of various calls you have, and of the occupation of your time, but if without trouble assist me in securing an assignment to duty for the present, or a permanent assignment in the future, I shall be under many obligations to you.

I believe my record is such in the War Department, that at present I require no letters of recommendation.

I am Sir Very Respectfully  
Yr. Obedt. Servt.  
F. D. Sewall  
Col. Vt. Res. Corps

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3148 12/12/1865 *From:* Nelson A Miles

*To:* Major Genl O O Howard

OOH-3091

*Source:* Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Military District  
of  
Fortress Munroe Va

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[131]

Hd. Qrs. Military District of  
Fortress Munroe Va  
Dec 12th 1865

Dear General

Will you please write me a line to inform me if there is any prospect of an increase of the regular army that would give me a position such as I would like, and if you will at your leisure give me a testimonial or statement of your opinion of my abilities to command troops or reputation as a Soldier which would be of service to me in case I should wish to volunteer my services in any foreign war either on the staff of a foreign General or in the line. If I do not receive an appointment in the regular army I expect soon to be relieved & return to civil life. I should also prize such a testimonial from you very highly to keep with the former recommendations of Generals & my Commissions.

Hoping this may find you well I have the honor to remain

With the highest respect  
Your obt Servt  
Nelson A Miles  
Major Genl U.S. Vols.

Major Genl  
O O Howard  
USA

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

Fortress Monroe, Va  
Dec. 12th 1865  
Miles, Nelson A.  
Maj. Gen. U.S. Vols.

Desires to know the prospect of increase of the Regular Army, and if recommendation, or a recognition of his services, from Gen. Howard.

Recd. Dec. 13th 1865.