
3167 12/19/1865 *From:* N.G. Suelher

To: Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3109

Baltimore

Source: Bowdoin

[175]

Respfully referred to Gen. Howard –that he may see how Lt. Goble proposes to gobble up the Freedmen. He is a decided subject for the discipline of the Bureau, in my judgement.

N.G. Suelher
Baltimore
19th Dec '65

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

Baltimore Md.

Dec 18, 1865

Suelher, N.G.

States that Lt. Goble is engaged in gob(b)ling up the freedmen and ought to be disciplined by Bureau.

Recd. Dec. 20th 1865

[Clipping from newspaper.]

Rockingham Register

Harrisonburg, VA.

Friday Morning ... December 15, 1865

We have a company of U.S. troops now stationed at this place, under command of Lt. Col. John C. Gilmore, of the 93d N.Y. State Volunteers. These troops reached here Saturday week last. Their object is to collect animals properly belonging to the United States, and to afford protection to the Freedmen's Bureau and the Christian Commission who have undertaken the duty of educating our negro population.

We do not know, but we do not believe there are many animals in Rockingham to which the U.S. has any just right. Already our county has been pretty thoroughly scoured and raked by Federal soldiers for U.S. horses, and we believe they really got more than the Government ought to have taken, considering all the circumstances of the case. It is known that a great many valuable horses were taken from our people by the Federal authorities during the war, without rendering any kind of compensation; and since the surrender of our Armies in Virginia the people of the valley have been called upon, over and over again, to "urrender" animals which they had obtained honestly and fairly. We are very glad to know that Col. Gilmore, who commands the Post at Harrisonburg comes to us endorsed as a high-toned, intelligent gentleman, and we are sure that he is not disposed to transcend the unpleasant duties he is required to perform. Our people who have intercourse with him will find him a reasonable, kind and courteous gentleman.

On the subject of the Freedmen's Bureau, we are pleased to state, that the Government of the U.S. has nothing in the world to do with compensating the teachers of the negro schools. Their compensation is derived solely from the Christian Commission. We therefore conclude they will not be kept up long; for whenever the education and care of the "Freedmen" begin to cost much money, the enterprize will be abandoned by the philanthropic Abolitionists.

We wish to be understood. We are in favor of educating the negroes; but we think it ought to be done by those who are now and have always been their real friends –their late masters and mistresses in the South, who know them better than anybody else, and who really care more them than anybody else.

The agent of the Freedmen's Bureau here is Lt. Goble, who is disposed to do, we believe, exactly what is right as far as he can. He is not here to encourage negroes or "Freedmen" in vagrancy and idleness; so far from it, he is instructed to hire out to good men such as can show no visible means of support. He comes with no foolish prejudices against the late owners of negroes; and will, we are sure, be of great service in restraining vicious "Freedmen" and in making the indolent earn an honest subsistence. If there are any idle, vagrant "Freedmen" about, we advise respectable white gentlemen to let Lt. Goble know the fact, and he will see that they be at once "gobled" up and put to work. We think all good citizens ought to help Lt. Goble to assist the

“Freedmen” in taking care of themselves.

3168 12/19/1865 *From:* C. J. Townsend

To: Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3112

Source: Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees
Freedmen &c
Sub District of
Richmond
Richmond Va

Supt Freedmens Bureau
Washington D.C.

[177]

Bureau Refugees Freedmen &c
Sub District of Richmond
Richmond Va, Dec 19th 65.

Maj Genl Howard
General,

Knowing that you understand my position and the influences that surround me, and believing you will appreciate fully the motives that influence me. I have taken the liberty to address you, and ask your advice in a matter that has attracted my attention, and prompted me to exert myself in behalf of the people, who, on account of their present condition, are dependent in a great measure upon the charity of northern men.

Quite recently, and without my knowledge, till the order came to hand, I was placed in charge of the Freedmen of this City; and entering upon the duties of my office I have felt a sympathy for them, I never experienced before, and been led to realize my inability to meet the responsibility that has thus been placed upon me. Confident however, that through my own exertions, and the influence I may have with friends in the North, in my own church and Sabbath school, and elsewhere, I can accomplish much to alleviate the suffering and supply the wants of some of them during the coming winter. I have felt an ardent desire, and I might say a duty, at least to undertake to assist those in my own immediate charge.

Being brought in immediate contact with them, in my present position, I believe I can be instrumental in doing much good, if I may be allowed to render them such assistance, as I can succeed in obtaining, and that without encroaching upon my time as an officer of the Bureau.

I would not desire to make it a general thing subject to the abuse of the indolent and for the unworthy to take advantage of, but give to such as from personal knowledge I consider needy.

Feeling a delicacy in taking such action on account of my office, lest my superiors should misconstrue my motives, or think I was assuming to do what my position and rank would not warrant me in doing, I have presented the matter plainly, General, that I may have the privilege of contributing, what I can through my own feeble efforts as an individual providing it meets your approbation, and is consistent with existing orders.

I have the honor to be, General
Most respectfully, Your obdt servt
C. J. Townsend, Lt 20th M..B.
Supt Sub Dist of Richmond

Maj Genl Howard,
Supt Freedmens Bureau
Washington D.C.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Richmond, Dec. 15th 1865
Townsend, E. Z.
Lt H Sub Agent
Asks to be ordered North to collect supplies
Recd. Dec. 21st 1865.

3169 12/19/1865 *From:* Francis Fessenden

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3113

Washington

Freedmen's Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

[6]

Copy of Gen. Fessenden's Letter

Washington, Dec. 19, 1865.

General,

Mr. Wm Wirt Piper formerly of Biddeford, Me., and recently an Assistant Surgeon in one of the Regiments of Colored Troops, desires employment under the Freedmen's Bureau.

Mr. Piper is a young gentleman of good character and education, and is well recommended. If employment can be furnished him consistently with Public Interests, it would be well bestowed.

I am, General, very respectfully,
Your Ob't Servant,
Francis Fessenden,
Maj. Gen. Vols.

Maj. Gen. Howard,
Freedmen's Bureau.

3170 12/19/1865 *From:* Nelson A. Miles

To: Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3114

Source: Bowdoin

Hd. Qrs. Military District
of
Fortress Munroe Va

[180, 181]

Hd. Qrs. Military District of
Fortress Munroe Va
Dec 19th 1865

Dear General

Your letter & testimonial were duly received and allow me to return my most sincere thanks. So prompt a reply was unexpected. Our old friend Dr Vogell is stopping with me. He has been South with a view of going into business but found none, which suited him. Can you assist him to a position either in your department or any other. He would prefer a position abroad if he could get one. I think him worthy of assistance and would be pleased to aid him were it in my power.

I have the honor to remain
With the highest respect
Your obt. Servt
Nelson A. Miles
Major Genl U.S.Vol.

Major Genl. O.O. Howard
U.S.A.

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

Hd. Qrs. Mil. Dist. Ft. Monroe,
Decr. 19th 1865.
Miles, Nelson A.
Maj Genl.

Acknowledges receipt of letter and desires that Dr. Vogell may be assisted to a position in the Bureau.

Dec 21

Favorably considered.

3171 12/19/1865 *From:* Wm. M. Burrows

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3115

No 396 E. St. North
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[182, 183, 184, 185]

No 396 E. St. North
Washington D.C.
December 19" 1865

Gen. O.O. Howard
Dear Sir,

I have taken the liberty of addressing you unofficially, as, on account of your preoccupation this morning, I was unable to present my case to your notice, as I had intended. Hoping you will deem me worthy of your attention for a few moments, I will endeavor to show you, in as concise a manner as possible, upon what I base my claim for position under the Government.

At the first call to arms in April 1861, an elder brother gave up a lucrative position in a commercial house in Philadelphia and volunteered for three years; entering the field as a private in the 71st Regt. Penna. Vols. under the leadership of Col. E.D. Baker. At the earnest solicitation of my parents, I remained at home, in order to contribute to the support of the family; my father being past the age allotted to man, and physically unable to furnish that pecuniary aid which is expected, from a father to his family, who in this case, were in comparatively straightened circumstances, all the previous earnings having been devoted to the education of his children, three boys and one girl. Under these circumstances, and full of patriotic ardor, for, I had been taught by a Christian mother, that next to my God, my duty was to my country, I was induced to remain at home, having but a month or two previous, quitted school, and enter into mercantile pursuits, in order to support as far a possible those parents.

In the engagement at Ball's Bluff, Va. my brother was a participant, but was missing afterwards. Unable longer to restrain the promptings of patriotism, and overlooking my duties toward my earthly parents in the intense desire to serve my country, in that dark hour to the nation, I left my home, travelled to the Potomac, and there enrolled myself in the company of which my brother had been a member. In this organization, I served as a private soldier in West Virginia on the Peninsula, under McClellan, through the first Maryland Campaign, and was thrown upon my back, after the battle of Antietam by disease contracted in the Swamps of the Chickahominy. During ten months I was confined to my bed, and was not out of it except to be brought from the hospital at Harper's Ferry to my home. Convalescence was rapid, but while unable to walk, without the assistance of a cane, I was placed, contrary to my wishes, in what was then known as the "Invalid Corps". As soon as able to undergo physical examination, I appeared before Gen Casey's board, was examined and was recommended for a Second Lieutenancy, in Colored Troops, in which capacity I served four months, when promoted, and served eight months as a First Lieutenant, (five months as Act. Asst Adjt. Genl 2d Brig, 2d Div. 25th A.C.)

Four months after the battle of Ball's Bluff, my brother was released from "Libby Prison", was paroled and exchanged, again entered the field, serving in the "Army of the Potomac", until wounded in one of the battles of the "Wilderness", a few days before the expiration of his term of service. Upon his arrival home, a younger brother, just sixteen years of age, volunteered for the three years, and was mustered out, after having served nearly a year and a half. Since his discharge, his health, which previously was excellent, has become miserable, unfitting him, for the present, for active employment.

Thus, were the only male members of my family, given to the support of our Government at great pecuniary expense to the household; and upon these considerations, do I claim what I have a right to ask, a position under the Government which my clerical ability will enable me to fill, to the satisfaction of my superiors in office.

My father though a soldier of the "War of 1812", my two brothers and myself, soldiers of the war just closed, have never received patronage from any political sources. My father, originally a "Whig", has been a faithful member of the Republican party since its organization; and since my brother and myself have attained the age, have voted as members of that party. Politically we claim consideration from those, whom we have assisted to

place in power, supported by the disinterested service we have given our country in her time of trial.

I have been thus lengthy, in order to lay before you, a plain statement of the facts in my case, to show you how much depends on my effort, and that it is not for myself alone, that I desire immediate employment.

The claim for support, of a mother and invalid sister, who now lies in a very critical condition, in this city, away from her home, among comparative strangers renders me thus urgent.

As a secondary consideration for myself, I have in contemplation the study of medicine, in which, with the absence of ample pecuniary means, the difficulties under ordinary circumstances, would be insurmountable.

Hoping, that, in this instance, you will put aside the official capacity, considering my case in your character of a Christian and gentleman, I shall endeavor to possess my soul with patience, feeling that you will not belie the reputation which you sustain for benevolence, in directing it toward that, which, next to the cry for succor from the widow and the fatherless, as the result of the late war, is deserving the attention of the Government.

I am, with great respect,
Your obed't servt.
Wm. M. Burrows

[Written at the bottom of the back page, in a different hand.]
Recd. Dec. 20th 1865.

3172 12/20/1865 *From:* W. French

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-3116

Charleston, S.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[160, 161]

Charleston, S.C.
Decr. 20, 1865

My dear General,

I have been ordered by Genl. Saxton to this place, and mean to make a tour into the upper part of the state, where there is much confusion.

I find the Sea-island question a very difficult one to be managed. The former owners are practicing all their well known acts of diplomacy &, I fear, of misrepresentation too, in many cases, to obtain possession of the plantations. The sin of rebellion, the cruel, yea, barbarous, treatment of Union prisoners, seem to have passed out of their minds.

I am more & more convinced, that God had more to do in the disposition of the Sea islands than most seem to be aware of. I am glad to perceive by your orders, so peculiarly, cautiously worded, that you seem to appear to be guarding the interest of Providence, against the enemies of the poor negroes, whom God has come to avenge. I sympathize with you, & trust you will have both the wisdom & the opportunity, to do right by these freedmen. I saw, when in conversation with the President, how anxious he appeared for peace, & a just peace too, as I thought. But he needs to stand on Mt. Sinai, with God & look at this great question.

Capt. Ketchum, like yourself, has a most difficult position. Had he not a most thorough acquaintance with the whole question, as well as a clear mind, legal knowledge, & a strong determination to do right, keeping himself strictly within the letter of your orders, he would fail in some cases. It is providential that one so well fitted is in the place. A weaker or less wise man might spoil the whole matter.

Allow me to suggest, General, that as a friend both to you, & Capt K, as well as from a strong desire that the cause of humanity & the country be faithfully served that Capt Ketchum should by all means, be kept in his present position. Perhaps I have no <reason> for saying this at all, but the boasts & threats, and assertions as to promises obtained by the Secesh from you, are my excuse for saying what I have.

I know of only one power that can solve this problem, & that is Congress, & I do pray most earnestly to God, that he will incline the President to leave the whole matter there.

Rev. Alvord is making good progress in establishing the bank here.

Dark clouds hand over us, but God reigns. I have written in great haste, as we start in a few minutes on our tour.

With great respect,
Truly yours,
W. French

P.S. Your brother desired me to write you often & freely, as you see I do.

3173 12/21/1865 *From:* Yardley Warner

To: Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3117

Source: Bowdoin

On the train from
Lincolnton to Charlotte
N.C.

[186, 187]

On the train from
Lincolnton to Charlotte N.C.
12/21/1865

To Genl O.O. Howard

The demands of my business on my time are such, that, I often forced, as now, to write under unfavorable circumstances.

I have been amongst the Freedmen & people of N. Carolina 1/3 of a year, in the business of educating, and elevating the Colored men; endeavoring to impress them & the white people with a just and true sense of the requirements, capabilities & the duties of the former, as well the interests of the latter. I think that the experience of this third of a year, has accumulated testimony, which it is important for the Head of the Bureau to consider and digest. To this end I propose a conference; and I do so now, in order to save time. I expect to be in Washington City on the 29th Inst on my way to Philad'a. My labors began in this state in the 7th mo last; and I am sure that there are claims on the part of the Freedmen which should be heard in Congress, fresh from the scenes where those claims are exemplified. They bear on these two primary points; 1st the continued judicious protection of the Bureau. 2nd the appropriation of material aid in the work of education. I intend, immediately on reporting to our board in Philad'a, to propose a petition short & strong, to those ends. But I cannot pass you by at Wash'n, without an effort to prepare the minds of those properly concerned in the movement, for its success.

Would it be practicable to get a meeting of the members of the two houses present at Wash'tn on the 29th, or an interview with the President, Stanton & thysel to consider the matter. I think that I can detail a plan, which can be seen through in 5 minutes, as one tending to impress the whole south with an impulse for a united effort, to put the Freedman in his right place at present viz the intelligent working man of the south. To effect this, I would ask for the appropriation of one million dollars or two, as furthering to the control & distribution of the Commissioner of the Bureau at Washington.

For any steps preparatory to the interview above alluded to, I shall feel obliged as a representative of the Executive Board of Philad'a Assn of Friends for Relief of Col'd Freedmen and as a representative of the interests of the Col'd men in the Western Dist of N. Carolina. My work however has been from Newbern to Lincolnton. We have now over 30 educational posts, between Goldsboro & the latter place; and every day the way is growing brighter, and difficulties vanishing. Of these I may speak when we meet.

Respectfully
Yardley Warner
Supt of Feedmens Schools
in West N. Carolina & S. Va.
For Friends of Philad'a.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Charlotte N.C.
Dec 21, 1865
Yardley Warner
Writes concerning condition of freed people in Va & N.C.
Recd Dec. 23rd 1865

3055 11/1/1865

From: Philip C. Garrett

To: Yardley Warner

OOH-3118

Source: Bowdoin

Instruction Committee
Friend's Freedmen's
Relief Assocn.
Philad'a

[188]

This is to certify that Yardley Warner is appointed to act as Superintendent of the Freedmen's School under the care of this Association at Danville, Va. & all places in North Carolina; this to remain in force until the appointment of a Successor. Teachers will please look to him for authority & advice, for board & supplies, & report the statistics of their schools through him to this committee.

Philip C. Garrett Chairman
On behalf of Instruction Committee
Friend's Freedmen's Relief Assocn.
Philad'a 11th mo. 1865

3174 12/23/1865 *From:* R. P. Cowles

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3119

Office "Young Men's
Institute"
New Haven Conn

Source: Bowdoin

[198]

Office "Young Men's Institute"
New Haven Conn Dec 23d 1865

Maj Gen O.O. Howard
Dear General,

Our President Mr Edwin Marble informs me that he had an interview with you in Washington & that you thought you should be able to address us some time in February. We understand you are to speak in Boston Feb. 16th if so would it be convenient for you to speak to us either the 13th, 14th, or 15th of Feb'y. Should prefer the 14, or 15th. If not some evening the following week. Should prefer to skip Tuesday evening as our religious meetings are held then.

Very truly Your humble Servant
R. P. Cowles, Cor Sec'y.

P.S. It is desirable to make our engagements early in order to secure our best Hall.

3175 12/23/1865 *From:* G. Williams

To: Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

Dewhurst

OOH-3120

No. 871 Washington St.
Boston, Mass.,

Source: Bowdoin

[194]

No. 871 Washington St.
Boston, Mass., 23d Dec. 1865.

Maj. Genl. Howard,
General,

I have the honor to enclose a letter which I brought on from Charleston at its date when you was absent, and a Prospectus of our Company. I intended to present these in person when I return through Washington, but some paragraphs of your late Report seem so fully to present the policy we will pursue, that venture to put these in the mail, simply requesting that when an opportunity occurs you will direct capital or other facilities to make this experimental association a success, so that from our good report a hundred greater companies may soon spring up to engage in the same work.

It is of vast importance that the appointments to be made of Land Agents in the States you mention, should be persons who will do their utmost to facilitate the settlement of colored men under the Homestead act upon the public land. Very much depends on the willingness of the land officer. I think J.H. Fowler, chaplain 33d U.S.C.T., soon to be mustered out, has applied to be Land officer (Registrar or Receiver) at St. Augustine Fla., and no truer man could be selected.

By means of our sawmill, using up a small part of the capital, we will give employment to many of our men, and, with the remainder, advance upon short mortgages, the money which will enable them to build neat little houses, thus securing a neater & better settlement than if they had it all to do alone.

Having served with them for three years we have their confidence and they ours.

Very respectfully
Your most obedient servant,
G. Williams Dewhurst

[Written on the backside, in a different hand.]

Boston Dec. 23. 1865

Dewhurst, G. Williams

Enclose prospectus of "lorida land & lumber Co. and give his views in regard to settlement of negroes in Florida. Encloses letter of introduction from Brevet Brig Genl. C.H. Howard

Recd Dec. 29th 1865

3176 12/23/1865 *From:* C. Van Santvoord

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3121

Schenectady N.Y.

Source: Bowdoin

[191, 192, 193]

Schenectady N.Y.
Dec 23 1865

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Dear Sir,

Though I have not the honor to know you personally, I seem to know you so well, as to make it unnecessary to apologize for the liberty I am taking in writing you this note –its object being to ask some information in regard to a point connected with the character of the late Gen. J.B. McPherson.

I have lately returned from St. Louis, and besides having access to the papers of Genl. McP. through the courtesy of General Sherman, obtained also Gen. Sherman's reminiscences of Gen. McPherson, from the time of the fine acquaintance between the two, till the lamented death of the latter before Atlanta. It is a very interesting paper and is to appear in the "tories at Home" a periodical published by Mr Scribner of New York. I am preparing a biographical sketch of Gen. McP. to appear in the number before that containing the reminiscences. In regard to Gen McP's religious character I have been able to learn but little. Mrs. McPherson, the late General's mother to whom I was introduced by Gen. Sherman, and whom I visited at Clyde, informed me that her son, when a boy, had joined the Methodist Church, but could not tell whether, he had retained his connexion with a church or not, after leaving her home for West Point, and during his subsequent honorable career. Can you give me any information, upon this point –anything to throw light upon his religious character during the time you was connected with him in the same army? This I shall be very grateful for, to round off the character of a man, universally considered as one of rare nobility & excellence. And if I could get it by the 10th of January, near which time I have agreed to have my article ready, my obligation to you will be much enhanced.

I have had suggested to me, the preparation of a more extended biography of Genl. McP. - one say, covering 300 or 400 pages duodecimo - and Gen. Sherman has given me letters of introduction to Genl Grant as well as to yourself with a view of ascertaining what materials might be obtained for this purpose. May I ask your opinion in regard to the advisability of this, judging from the materials you may know to exist for this work. I have not found time to visit Washington as yet to present my letters, and will only add, as to myself, that I have served nearly four years in the Army as Chaplain, two or three of them at Nashville Tennessee and connected with the Ref. Dutch Church and am known well to most of its ministers, and to the editor of the N. York Times, for which paper I have been a regular correspondent for the two years preceding the end of the rebellion.

Any aid you may be kind enough to render besides favoring much the object of my work, will do the farther service of making more complete the sketch of a more deserving the highest honors that friendship & patriotism can confer.

I have the honor to be
Very Respectfully
Your obedt Servt
C. Van Santvoord

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

Schenectady N.Y.
Dec. 23. 1865
Santvoord, C. Van

Is preparing a biography of Gen. James B. McPherson and desires some knowledge of his religious principles.
Has letter of introduction <> from Gen. Sherman.

Recd. Dec. 29th 1865