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3177 12/25/1865 *From:* Edw. C. Darlington

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

OOH-3122

Yorktown, Va.

Supt. Freedmen's Bureau

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[200]

Yorktown, Va. Dec. 25, 1865.

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard,  
Supt. Freedmen's Bureau  
Sir:

As it seems probable the Freedmen's Bureau will be continued another year, I take the liberty of suggesting a change in the local superintendent for this (York) county.

I came here from the North six years ago; and having carefully studied the characters of the inhabitants, both white and black, I speak with some confidence when I say that R. Churchill, (the Supt.) is a most unfortunate selection to represent the Bureau in this locality, where the large number of freedmen congregated would require a man of more than average tact and administrative capacity.

Mr. Churchill has deemed it his duty, from the beginning to put himself in a hostile attitude to the white inhabitants, and has rendered himself peculiarly obnoxious the whole tendency of his administration has been to widen and deepen the ill-feeling naturally existing to a certain extent between the white and colored people, necessarily, in the end, to the disadvantage of the latter class.

When orders came, some weeks ago, for the appointment of a "Freedmen's Court," the citizens elected a worthy man to represent them. The freedmen thereupon elected a colored man from Massachusetts. The white man, as a matter of course, declined to serve in conjunction with the colored one, when Churchill and the negro proceeded to hold court. This, naturally tends to render the Bureau obnoxious, and in the end will do vastly more harm to the blacks than to the whites.

I have been employing sometimes as high as 150 colored men: - and during the past three years have had not less than 1,000 different individuals in my employ. I have also, about 800 residing on my <land>. From these extensive means of forming an opinion, I have arrived at the conclusion that the operations of the Bureau here have been decidedly detrimental to the best interest of the colored population. They have become more and more reluctant to hire out; until now it is almost impossible to hire one, while their thieving depredations have become almost intolerable. We are wholly without redress, as our county court is afraid to meddle with the negro in any form, and Churchill is not disposed to curtail his thieving privileges.

A man of enlarged views and good administrative capacity might do much good if clothed with the authority of the Bureau, where one of narrow mind and strong prejudices against the White inhabitants, would do great evil.

I have the honor to be,  
Your obedient servant  
Edw. C. Darlington

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3178 12/25/1865 *From:* E.B. Gardner

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3123

Buckport Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[200, 201]

Buckport Maine  
Dec 25th 1865

Maj Gen Howard  
Dr Sir

My brother Samuel S Gardner was stationed at Selma, also as Asst Sup't of Freedmen – we heard from him quite often and regularly until July last – since then have not heard from him – we supposed he had written but from some cause the letters did not reach us and have waited from time to time with the expectation of hearing from him. We judged that at your office they would know if he had left Selma and when will you please cause any intelligence the office may have of him to be forwarded me

and oblige  
Yours very truly  
E.B. Gardner

[Written on page 3, in a different hand.]

Office Assistant Commissioner  
B.R.F. and A.L.  
Montgomery Ala. Jany. 5th 1866

Respectfully returned with the information that Chaplain S.S. Gardner is on duty at Selma Ala. as Supt. R.F. and A.L. For that District, and when last heard from, Dec. 31st was in good health.

Wager Swayne  
Bvt. Major General

[Written on the last page (4), in a different hand.]

Rockport, Me. Dec 25, 1865.

Gardiner, E.B.

Desires to get information of Saml S. Gardner who was Supt. of Freedmen at Selma, Ala., till July last.

War Dept. B.R.F.&A.L.

Washington Dec 29th 1865.

Respy referred to Maj. Genl. W. Swayne to know what has become of the within named individual. This letter to be returned to this office.

By order of Maj Gen.

O.O.Howard

Lt. Sladen –Lt. & <Prd> Secy

Recd Dec. 29th 1865

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 11 1866

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3179 12/27/1865 *From:* Geo Ward Nichols

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3124

Harper Brothers  
New York

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[202, 203]

Confidential

Harper Brothers  
New York  
Dec 27 65

Maj Genl Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Genl

I have the honor to enclose an article upon Genl <Schurtz> reports, from the pen of Mr Godwin of the Post. His article offers it seems to me one of the most feasible of all schemes for the disposition of this <> question, which I assure you is creating serious divisions amongst good men here at the north. If you will propose that the freedman be settled upon these public lands you will find the Post and the unanimous press of the north in your support. I write you this not at the suggestion of several of our best men who look to you with confidence in your judgment and the utmost faith in your honesty of intention

I remain  
Your obdt svt  
Geo Ward Nichols

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York, Dec. 27. 1865  
Nichols, Geo. Ward  
Suggest the settlement of public lands by the freedmen.  
Recd. Dec. 28th 1865

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3180 12/27/1865 *From:* FW Emmitt

*To:* My dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3125

Kennebec Arsenal,  
Augusta, Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[204]

Kennebec Arsenal,  
Augusta, Me., 27th Dec 1865

My dear General,

I left the city Thursday evening and reached Boston Friday evening.

I remained over at Springfield one train & Col Balloch took charge of the colored people I was also obliged to stop in Boston until Monday morning as my cousin Miss Flowers could not get ready to join me until that time. I arrived home Monday evening just in time for the Christmas dinner.

I found all at home well & very glad to see me. I have your letter to the Conductor of the train at Brunswick and he said he would give his personal attendance to Mrs H & children.

Mother & Father send kind regards to Mrs H & yourself with great respect

Your obt servt  
<FW> Emmitt

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3181 12/27/1865 *From:* H de Mareil

*To:* Monsieur le General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3126

Le Messenger Franco-  
Americain  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[205]

[Letterhead]

Le Messenger Franco-Americain  
Journal Quotidien

New York 27 Decembre 1865

Monsieur le General,

J'ai l'honneur de vous remercier du rapport que vous avez bien voulu m'envoyer. C'est un document d'un grand interet, et je suis convaincu que les journeaux de Paris reproduiront l'analyse que je ferai paraître dans notre M'r du demain matin.

Ainsi, je vous prie, Monsieur le General, d'assurance du respect avec lequel j'ai l'honneur d'etre,

Votre tres humble serviteur,  
H de Mareil

[Translation]

General,

I have the honor to thank you for the report that you kindly sent me. It is a document of great interest, and I am convinced that the newspapers in Paris will reprint the analysis that I will make appear in our M'r tomorrow morning.

So, please, General, be assured of the respect with which I have the honor of being,

Your very humble servant,  
H de Mareil

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3182 12/27/1865 *From:* O Brown

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

OOH-3127A

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters  
Assistant  
Commissioner State of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Va.

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[297]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, &c.,  
Head Quarters Assistant Commissioner State of Virginia  
Richmond, Va., Dec 27th 1865

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner &c  
General

The accompanying communication was received by me to day. I have felt it my duty to forward this to you under the permission that I received from you that, I might "address you in confidence". Believing it to be important I have to request that it may be in the strictest confidence.

The communication came to the Maj General Comdg the Department yesterday by telegraph in cipher from the Lieut. General, addressed to General Terry. Genl S-- has sent a copy to each District Commander and to myself. It will be impossible for me to obtain the information called for in less than two weeks, and then my report will of necessity be so mixed with that of the District Commanders that it will have but little value.

I may be mistaken in my notion that this report is called for to furnish arguments against the continuance of the Bureau, if so no harm can be done by my communicating the information to you under the seal of confidence.

I am General  
Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servt  
O Brown  
Col Assoc Com

[Attachment: 12/27/1865 Letter from E. Smith to O. Brown]

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3183 12/27/1865 *From:* Edw Smith

*To:* Col. O. Brown

OOH-3127B

*Source:* Bowdoin

Head Qrs. Department  
of Virginia  
Richmond Va.

Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and Abandoned  
Lands

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[This letter was attached to 12/27/1865 letter from O. Brown to OO Howard.]

[298]

Head Qrs. Department of Virginia  
Richmond Va. December 27th 1865

Col. O. Brown  
Asst. Commissioner  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Col.

The Maj General Commanding requests that you report as early as possible all known cases of outrages which have occurred within this Military Department since the surrender of the Rebel Armies, committed by white people upon blacks, and blacks upon whites. The statement in each case should give whenever practicable, the date and locality of the occurrence and the circumstances as fully as possible.

It is important that the report be received here by the end of the present week.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt. Servt  
(Signed) Edw Smith  
Asst. Adjt General

Official  
James A. Bates  
Capt & A.A.A.G.

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3184 12/28/1865 *From:* Thomas W. Conway *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3128

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[211]

New York Dec. 28 1865

General:

Just as I had procured my ticket for passage to England, letters were received from there setting forth that, at their writing, it was deemed too late to do any thing for the coming season at the South. Although I had every thing in readiness, I at once gave up the mission.

I am at work on my Report which will be more lengthy than any I have made to either Generals Banks, Hurlbut or Canby.

The News Papers promise us a report from Gen. Fullerton. If he has made one, I would be glad to have a copy.

I read your report with great pleasure. I am fully convinced that if you were allowed to act your pleasure in the south, matters would not be in the shocking condition which I find represented, not only in my letters from there (from all the states) but also in the southern papers. I fear the present public policy is like a sponge that swallows the "sweet water and the bitter."

I enter in full sympathy with you in the great work. I yearn and pray for your triumph.

Will you be kind enough to send me your Report in such form as you may have it?

I will not complete my Book till the work is more advanced than it is at present. Your Report will aid me much.

I have seen a letter from Mr. Plumley, written last summer, in which he states - "I will give myself no rest till, in some way or other, I get Comony out first, then Canby, and then Capt. Pease." I suppose, from what I learn from New Orleans, that this wretched man is now devoting his whole energy and time in the persecution of one of the best officers in the Bureau -I mean Capt. Pease the Supt. of Education in Louisiana.

The letter of recognition of services which you promised me in your letter, I will be glad to have.

Respectfully

Thomas W. Conway

Care Gen. Clark, 742 B'way

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

New York Dec 28th 1865

Conway, Thos. W.

Has given up the proposed trip to England. Desires copy of Genl Fullerton's report, also copy of Gen. Howards report. Desires the letter of recognition of services.

186 C.B.

Recd Dec. 29th 1865

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2391 12/28/1864 *From:* Wharton J. Green

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

OOH-3129

Depot Prisoners of War  
Johnson's Island Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[219]

Depot Prisoners of War  
Johnson's Island Ohio, Dec. 28th 1864

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

General,

Your communication from Gaylesville Ala. of Oct. 23rd was duly recd. wherein you express your willingness to aid me in procuring a special exchange, if you only knew my assimilated rank. It is needless to say that I thank you sincerely for the offer, and will never forget the fulfilment of the promise. Since losing my original rank as Lieut. Col. in the Confederate army and taking the position of Vol. A.D.C. on Brig. Gen. Daniel's staff I have supposed that my grade was, so far as the question of exchange is involved, that of other aides on a Brigadier's staff viz. 1st Lieutenant.

As such I doubt not that Col. Auld or other authorized party on the part of my Gov'nt. would consent exchange for me. In this connection I deem it not inappropriate to add that Capt. Puffer A.D.C. on Gen'l Butler's staff wrote to the Hon. Benj. Dean of Boston of date of Nov. 1st stating that Gen. B. had directed Col. Mulford to tender me in exchange for any officer of like rank that we hold of your's. As I have since heard nothing of the matter, I fear that in the press of business incident to active operations it has been overlooked. Trusting that you General (for the sake of old classmateship and my declining health) will take the matter in hand.

I am very resp'ly Your Obt. Serv't  
Wharton J. Green [USMA Class of 1854; withdrew during first year.]

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Green, Wharton J.  
Prisoner of War  
Johnsons Island  
Dec. 28, 1864.

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3185 12/28/1865 *From:* J.M. McKim

*To:* Major Gen. O O Howard

OOH-3130

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[209]

Private

Major Gen. O O Howard  
Commissioner &c  
My dear Sir

You will see by the circular on the other side that we are in the act of fusing the two commissions.

An application has been made to Mr Abbott & myself by Mr M.T. Conway, late Asst Com'r in Louisiana, for an appointment as canvasser for this commission. Before acting on this application we desire to hear from you. Will you be good enough to indicate to us your opinion as to his fitness.

These appointments are matters of great delicacy, forbidding haste & demanding circumspection & inquiry.

Mr Conway we take to be a good man & a true friend to the cause. Our inquiry refers rather to his probable adaptedness to this particular work. A canvasser is, to an extent, an exponent of the character of the movement for which he works.

An answer at your convenience will oblige Mr Abbott &

Yours truly  
J.M. McKim  
Cor. Secy  
Dec 28 / 65