

3206 1/3/1866

From: James G. Holladay

To: Major General OO

Howard

OOH-3149

Portsmouth Va.

Chief B.R.F.&A.L.

Source: Bowdoin

[16]

Portsmouth Va. Jany 3rd 1866

Major General OO Howard

Chief B.R.F.&A.L.

General

In this days "Virginian" a newspaper published in the City of Norfolk appeared in the news column an editorial in reference to the house of Wm H Peters in this city leased by your Bureau to W.H. Hunt and in relation to which I saw you on last Friday in Washington.

I beg most earnestly to assure you sir that the publication referred to was not only without the knowledge of either Mr. Peters or myself, but also greatly contrary to my wishes and desires.

I deem this explanation and disavowal necessary for my own vindication, since the publication alluded to, would under the circumstances, had it come from me, been violative of every principle of propriety & decorum.

I am sir very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt

James G. Holladay

P.S. I may have exaggerated the article and therefore enclose it for upon the subject of propriety I am somewhat sensitive and do not yield prudence to any one. J.G.H.

3207 1/4/1866

From: Jno D Armour

To: Genl OO Howard

OOH-3150

153 N Eutaw St
Balto

Wash.

Source: Bowdoin

[17]

Balto Jany 4, 1866

Genl OO Howard

Wash.

Dear Sir

Will you be kind enough to let your clerk drop me a line to this city 153 N Eutaw St. Informing me when I can obtain an interview with you at Washington

& oblige

Your very Respy

Jno D Armour

153 N Eutaw St

3208 1/4/1866

From: Wright Rives

To: Gen [OO Howard]

OOH-3151

Executive Mansion
Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[8]

Executive Mansion
Washington D.C. Jan 4th 1866

Gen

The President wishes to see you in reference to Gen Bairds paper and several other things. I told him that I thought you would be here to day. I think it best for you to come tomorrow morning as he has seen a great many persons today and is very much fatigued and will not be in condition to attend to your business. I think if you will call tomorrow morning at 10 you will see him.

Your Obt Svt
Wright Rives [USMA class of 1861]

[Written on the back page, in a different hand.]
Washington Jan 4, 1865
Rives, Wright
Lt. Col.
States that the President would like to see Gen Howard.
Recd. Jan 4th 1865

3209 1/4/1866

From: R. Knowles

To: Gen OO Howard

OOH-3152

“Office Young Mens
Institute”
New Haven

[21]

“Office Young Mens Institute”
New Haven Jan. 4th 1866

Gen OO Howard
Dear Sir,

In answer to yours of the 2d inst I would say that Friday Evening Feb. 16th the time you mention would please us much. The Terms you name are quite satisfactory. Will you be so kind as to inform me if you receive this note in order that there may not possibly be any misunderstanding.

Very truly your Obdt Servant.
R. Knowles
Cor. Secy.

3210 1/5/1866

From: E.B. Washburne

To: Major General O.O.

Howard

OOH-3153

Washington, D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[18]

Washington, D.C.
Jan'y 5th 1866.

Major General O.O. Howard,
General:

I take the liberty of enclosing to you a letter from Colonel M. W. Smith of the 66th Regt. U.S. Colored Troops, in order that you may see the account he gives of the state of affairs in that part of Mississippi in which he is stationed. Col. Smith is a resident of my district, an educated soldier, and a man of probity and honor, whose statements are entitled to the fullest confidence. After reading the letter, I will thank you to return it to me.

I have the honor to be,
very respectfully
and truly, yours,
E.B. Washburne [Elihu Benjamin Washburne, Member of Congress from Illinois]

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

Washington, Jan 5, 1866

Washburn, M.C., E.B.

Encloses a statement regarding condition of Freedmen in Pike Co., Miss made by Col. M.W. Smith
Recd. Jan 8th 1866

3211 1/5/1866

From: A.A.E. Taylor

To: Maj Gen Howard

OOH-3154

Georgetown D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[20]

Georgetown D.C. Jan 5, 1866

Maj Gen Howard,
General,

I have sent you by today's mail a copy of "The Presbyterian" of Philadelphia the principal paper of our church. I would direct your attention to an article it contains concerning The Freedmen in which I have taken the liberty of referring to yourself & hope it may not meet your disapproval. As I write every week during this season, for it as a regular Correspondent anything you may see fit to suggest of benefit to the Freedmen's cause will be gladly received, or anything you may desire to have said in justification of your cause before the Christian public.

Yours Very Respectfully
A.A.E. Taylor

3212 1/6/1866

From: Adam Badeau

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3155

Head-Quarters Armies
of the United States,
Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[23]

Head-Quarters Armies of the United States,
Washington Jany 6 1866

Maj Gen Howard
In charge Bureau
Refugees, Freedmen &c
General

Lt Gen. Grant directs me to forward you the enclosed letter referring to Col. Whittlesey, and request you if in your power to furnish the information desired. Direct to Dr Hickock.

I am General
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
Adam Badeau
Brvt Col & Mil Secy

[Note. The enclosure is OOH-3165, dated 12/29/1865.]

3213 1/6/1866

From: S P Chase

To: Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3156

Wash'n

Source: Bowdoin

Wash'n Jany 6, 1866

Dear General

My friend Mr. <> sends me the enclosed letter, and expresses confidence in the writer Dr. Johnston, though having not much knowledge of him beyond reports of friends, and desires it to be brought to your notice or that of Secretary <Stanton>.

I have no idea what the writer refers to in the marked passages. Perhaps you will understand them and you will know much better than I whether it is best to address to Washington or not.

Yours very truly
S P Chase

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

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

Washington Jan 6, 1866

Chase, S.P.

Chf. Justice

Enclosed a letter written by Robb, Johnson to <paybank>.

Recd. Jan. 5th 1866.

3214 1/6/1866

From: A.S. Twitchell

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3157

Bethel

Source: Bowdoin

[25]

Bethel January 6th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard
Dear Sir

The "Mutual Educational Society" of this place have in contemplation a course of Lectures for the Winter, provided we can meet with sufficient assurance of success. We have already Gen. Chamberlain among other distinguished men in this State, and thus far success has met our efforts. We understand that you are to Lecture before the course in Portland, and thinking that it might be possible for you to favor us also I write you in accordance with my own wishes seconded by those of the Society and the citizens generally. You have been among us, and know something of us -particulars therefore I deem perhaps unnecessary.

Hoping to hear favorably from you and if so your stated terms, that we may be prepared to meet them.

I am with respect
Your obedient Servant
A.S. Twitchell
Bethel Maine

3215 1/6/1866

From: AK Browne

To: Maj. Gen. O.O Howard

OOH-3158

Washington D.C.

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[112]

Washington D.C. January 6, 1866

Dear Sir:-

As you will reccollect soon after our efforts last Summer to purchase Fords Theatre for our Association, I was taken ill and obliged to leave my business and go North for my health.

Since my return I find my business reduced, all of my little means gone, and with my little family consisting of my Wife and two children soon to be dependent upon the charity of Friends unless I can find employment.

It has occurred to me that perhaps you could give me a situation of some kind in your Bureau if so, I can assure you it would be duly appreciated at this time and if possible deserved. I have devoted much time during this War as a Delegate of the Christian Commission and otherways endeavoring to serve my country and have never before asked of her any such favor. I have been assisting B. Gen. S.L. Brown of late in his Col'd Mission S. School & am Supt. of Mission S.S. at Camp Fry Barracks.

Hoping soon to hear from you, I am

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

AK Browne

Maj. Gen. O.O Howard

Washington D.C.

3216 1/7/1866

From: [J.R.] Shipherd

To: My dear General

OOH-3159

New York

Source: Bowdoin

[106]

New York, Jany 7 66

My dear General:

I find an editorial in this morning's Herald which is funny, & I think you may like to read it. It is rather hard when a decent man must be commended by the Herald & condemned by the Independent!

I shall try to get home to meet you as agreed on Friday night, but I may be detained. God bless you with faith & patience as hitherto.

Yours faithfully,
Shipherd

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

New York 7th Jan 1866

Shipherd, J.R.

Encloses slip from N.Y. Herald

Recd Jan 9th 1866

[Clipping]

The United States Sanitary Commission having declined to continue beyond the 1st of January the collection of soldiers' claims for back pay, bounty and pensions, the general Secretary of the American Freedmen's Aid Commission will receive, until further action, the claims of colored soldiers and their heirs. Applications should be addressed to Jacob R. Shepherd, General Secretary, Washington, D.C.

[Second clipping]

... It has been prepared after a great deal of reflection on the subject and it is hoped will meet all the exigencies that may arise in inaugurating our new industrial system.

It has been submitted to the consideration of Major-General Sickles and Saxton, and meets their approval. They both give every assurance that all contracts made on this basis will be approved by officers of the Government, and of their earnest desire to co-operate with the planters in inducing the freedmen to work.

With the high prices of produce as an incentive to exertion, let the planters of the South rouse up their energies and go to work earnestly in giving this new system a fair trial. If they then fail the responsibility will not be upon their shoulders.

This form of contract, with some modification of terms, adapting it to the upland system of culture, has recently been adopted at a large meeting of the citizens of the upper part of Beaufort District:

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA -BEAUFORT DISTRICT.

Articles of Agreement Between _____ And The Freedmen, Whose Names Are Hereunto Attached.

Article 1. The said freedmen agree to hire themselves as laborers on the plantation of the said _____, from the 1st of January, 1866, to the 1st of January, 1867. They agree to conduct themselves honestly and civilly, and to perform any labor on the said plantation or connected therewith, that may be required by the said _____ or his agents.

Article 2. The said freedmen agree to perform the following daily task per hand, fractional hands in proportion:
Listing, Bedding, Cultivating, Splitting rails, Ditching, Cutting marsh.

In all cases where task cannot be assigned, they agree to labor diligently ten hours per day.

Article 3. The said freedmen agree to forfeit for every day's absence from labor 50 cents per day. If absent voluntarily and without leave, two dollars per day. If absent more than one day without leave, to be dismissed from the plantation and forfeit their share of the crop.

Article 4. The said freedmen agree to take good care of all utensils with which they may be entrusted, and to pay for the same if lost or destroyed. They agree to be kind and gentle with animals under their charge, and to pay for any injury they may sustain while in their hands. Damages to be assessed by arbitrators, to be selected by each contracting party.

Article 6. They agree to furnish from their number a foreman, a nurse and a stock minder –to be selected by their employer.

Article 7. They agree to bear all their own expenses, and to return any advance that may be made during the rear from their respective shares in the crop, and to protect their employer's property.

Article 8. The said _____ agrees to treat his employees with kindness and respect, to do all in his power to elevate and improve their condition. He agrees to furnish each family with a comfortable house, and the fourth part of an acre of land for a garden; to allow them to raise poultry and one hog to each laborer, to be kept within their own enclosures. He agrees to divide the crop with them at the end of the year in the following proportions per hand, fractional hands in proportion: One-third of the net proceeds of all the cotton, and on-third of all other crops raised on the plantation, except long forage.

Article 9. The said _____ agrees to be attentive to his employees in sickness; to see that they are supplied with medical attendance and medicines if required, to be paid for out of their respective shares. He further agrees to supply them with their bread rations, if required, to be paid for in the same manner.

Article 10. The said _____ agrees to furnish work animals at the rate of one animal to every eight full hand to furnish wagons, carts and plantation utensils, as may be required, such as cannot be made on the plantation.

Article 11. It is agreed that the crop to be cultivated shall be in the following proportion per hand, fractional hands in proportion:

Cotton, Corn Rice, Potatoes, Peas, Slips, Turnips

Article 12. It is agreed that the fines for absences be appropriated to the hiring of other labor to cultivate the absentees' share of the crop, and that the fines for untidiness be appropriated as a premium to the family who keep their premises and garden in the best order.

Article 13. it is agreed that no liquor or firearms brought on the plantation, except by consent and permission of the employer.

3217 1/7/1866

From: R. Saxton
Bvt Maj Genl
Asst Com.

OOH-3160

Source: Bowdoin

To: Maj Genl O.O. Howard

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

[26]

Headquarters, Assistant Commissioner,
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
South Carolina
Charleston, S.C. Jan 7th 1866

General -

I have the honor to enclose for your information a paper which contains an account of a meeting of some five or six thousand freedmen & planters which I held at Columbia Sc. Ca. on the 3d inst. It is the type of several other meetings I have held which I hope may result in good. The freedmen promised to go on & contract and seemingly all parties separated with an improved state of feeling.

I am General
With great respect
Your obt servant
R. Saxton
Bvt Maj Genl
Asst Com.

Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Commisioner

3218 1/8/1866

From: W.S. Mitchell
Br. Brig Genl Vols

OOH-3161

Source: Bowdoin

To: Major General [OO]
Howard

Freedmans Bureau
Washington DC.

[32, 33]

Head Quarters M.M. Dept.
Baltimore, Jany 8th 1866

General,

In view of a probable increase in the regular Army I have determined to apply for a commission as a "Field Officer" in one of the new Regiments in case any such are authorized to be raised. Almost all of my service has been on the staff of Maj General Hancock and I am advised by him to request a letter from you (if it is not objectionable to you to give me one), which I can use when I make my application for an appointment. If you can give me such a letter General, it would greatly assist me and I will appreciate your kindness highly.

I entered the service in 1861 as a private soldier & served as such for some months and was constantly in the field from the commencement of the War until its termination. I had the honor to carry an order for you during the assault made by the 2nd Corps at Fredericksburg 13 Dec. 62, while I was on the Staff of Genl Hancock as A.D.C. The order was for Capt Hazzard to retire his Battery. I only speak of this to recall myself to your memory.

I am General
Very respectfully
Your Obt Servt
W.S. Mitchell
Br. Brig Genl Vols & Asst I. General
M. M. Dept.

Major General Howard
Freedmans Bureau
Washington DC.

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Hd Qrs. M.M. Dept.
Baltimore Jan 8th 1866
Mitchell, W.S.
Brev. Brig. Gen. & A.I.G.
Desires a letter of recommendation for a field officers position in the Regular Army
Recd. Jan. 9th 1865. [should be 1866]

3219 1/8/1866

From: J.H. Chapin

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3162

American Freedmen's
Aid Commission
New-England Section
8, Studio Building,
Boston

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[27, 28]

[Letterhead]

American Freedmen's Aid Commission
New-England Section
Hon. John. Andrew, President.
John Parkman, Chairman Ex. Comm.
J.J. Chapin, Secretary
Wm. Endicott, Jr., Treasurer.
8, Studio Building, Boston
Jan 8th 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Washington D.C.
Dear Sir -

It is the purpose of the above-named Commission to have a grand mass meeting at the Fremont Temple in this city on or about Monday Evening January 29th for the purpose of advancing the interests of the Freedman's cause. Every means will be employed to make the occasion a success, both as to numbers and influence; and it is particularly desired, that you, as the head of the Bureau, and one whose name is more extensively known than any other, in connection with the Freedmen, should be present and address the meeting.

Gov. Andrews and other distinguished speakers are expected to be present.

It is hoped not only to obtain a large amount of funds for the prosecution of our work; but that the meeting may inaugurate a movement which will have some influence upon congress, as we have no doubt any measures you may propose tending to the amelioration of the condition of the freed people will be heartily endorsed by the meeting, and going thence will gather strength throughout New England, and perhaps other parts of our country.

If you cannot be here on the 29th could you be here within two or three days before or after?

As you are advertised to lecture before a Literary Society in this city on Feb. 1st it is deemed advisable to have our meeting before that date.

We should be glad also to secure Gen Fiske for the same occasion. Can you tell us if his duties in connection with the Bureau would permit him to be here at that time?

An early answer will oblige

Yours Very Respectfully
J.H. Chapin
Secy

By order of Executive Committee

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

Boston, Jan 8th 1866

Chapin, J.H.
Secy

Desires Gen. Howard to address a meeting in Boston on the 29th inst.
Recd. Jan 10th 1866

3220 1/8/1866

From: Roscoe Conkling

To: Genl Howard

OOH-3163

Thirty-Ninth Congress,
U.S.

Freedman Bureau

Source: Bowdoin

House of
Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

[29]

[Letterhead]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Jany 8 1866

Sir:

The Rev J.. Crawford a man of vigor and decided talent living at Sauquoit, Oneida Co, N.Y. wants to be engaged somewhere in the South in your Bureau.

May I enquire whether there is need or place for him, & if so what sort of position he can have.

I have the honor to be
Your obt sert
Roscoe Conkling

Genl Howard
Freedman Bureau

3221 1/8/1866

From: Wm. P. Hubbard

To: Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3164

Bangor

Source: Bowdoin

[30]

Bangor Jany 8th 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard
Dear Sir

Yours of the 3d instant was duly received. I have no copy of letter sent you so that I am not sure, that I have not neglected to reply to yours of the 14th of Dec. We had made our arrangements for the lecture on the 7th and engaged the Hall for that evening instead of the 6th which is our regular time. The cars arrive so late in the evening that it is not practicable to have the lecture on the 6th, if you are to be in Portland the 5th.

Yours very truly
Wm. P. Hubbard
Secy
B.F.A.A.

3222 1/8/1866

From: E.P. Hill

To: Maj Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3165

Haverhill Mass.

Source: Bowdoin

[31]

Post Office
Haverhill Mass.
Jan 8 1866

Maj Gen. O.O. Howard
Sir -

Noticing that you are to lecture in Boston before the Young Men's Chr Association, I address you in behalf of the Union Lecture Association of this place for an engagement to lecture here.

What Wednesday or Friday eveng in February can you be with us if at all? What are your terms?

We most earnestly hope you will be able to address us.

Hoping for an early answer, I am

Truly yours
E.P. Hill

3223 1/8/1866

From: WHM [William H
Merrick]

To: My dear Otis [OO
Howard]

OOH-3166

Southwark Foundry
Merrick & Sons
Philad'a

Source: Bowdoin

[183]

[Letterhead]

Southwark Foundry
Merrick & Sons
J. Vaughan Merrick
W.H. Merrick
John E. Cope
Philad'a

Jan 8 1866

My dear Otis

You may remember that while you were with us last you mentioned having heard of or seen a knife intended for persons only having the use of one hand. I have been trying to find one for you ever since & only succeeded a few days since when happening to glance into a store window I saw a horrible looking weapon which I at once identified as the article you wanted.

I send it to you today by mail & hope that if the P.O. Officials should have occasion to pry into the package they will not suspect any "repentant rebel" of mailing a murderous weapon.

All well at home & with love to Lizzie & the children.

I am
Very Truly yr friend
WHM [William H Merrick]