
3224 1/9/1866

From: G. Clay Smith

To: Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3167

Washington City

Source: Bowdoin

[33?]

Washington City
Jan 9 1866

Maj. Genl. Howard -
Genl.

I have the Honor to lay before you the enclosed letter in regard to Capt. Geo. P Webster of whom I have written & spoken to you before. Now that the Amendment has been proclaimed officially as a part of the Constitution, & the Freedmens Bureau has been established in Kentucky, I take the liberty of calling your attention to the appointment of Capt. Webster in that Dept. as chief Q.M. of your Dept. I am satisfied such an appointment will receive the cordial approval of the Scty of War, and the Q.M. Genl. besides being entirely satisfactory and gratifying to the loyal men of Ky. & all who would advance the interest of the poor negro in that state.

I can with great pleasure assure you that Capt. Webster is a man of fine ability, honesty, and such exceptionable morals –and has of late because of efficient & faithful service been Breveted Lt. Col in the Q.M. Dept. He is at present in St. Louis Mo.

I am Genl. with great Respect.

Your humble & obt. Srvt.
G. Clay Smith

3225 1/9/1866

From: E.B. Webb

To: Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3168

638 Tremont St
Boston

Source: Bowdoin

[35]

638 Tremont St
Boston Jany 9 1866

Dear Genl,

The Young Men take the 1st eve'g named in yr letter. You know as I see you are advised.

Come to my House for Hd. Qtrs.

I have made another arrangement for you on the eve'g of the first Sabth of Feb'y.

In great haste, but fraternally
E.B. Webb

Genl. O.O. Howard

3226 1/9/1866

From: Charles Marsh

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3169

Source: Bowdoin

United States Christian
Commission
229 Main Street
Springfield, Mass.

[36, 37]

[Letterhead]

Springfield Branch
of the
United States Christian Commission
F.A. Brewer, President
Geo. P. Geer, Vice President,
Charles Marsh, Secretary
Henry S. Lee, Treasurer
Rev. Henry Powers, General Agent.
Rooms of Young Men's Christian Association, 229 Main Street
Springfield, Mass.,

Jan 9 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

I have noticed that you are to speak before the Y.M. Christian Association in Boston early in February, and I am directed by a similar organization here to invite you to address the people of Springfield; if, consistent with your public duties, you can give one night on your way to or from Boston.

Our people, and especially the young men, many of whom have served in the army & those who have been deeply interested in the "Christian Commission" would rejoice to see you in Sp'd and sincerely hope for a favorable response to their invitation.

I am very truly
Your Obt Servant
Charles Marsh
Pres't

3241 1/16/1866 *From:* J. A. Garfield

To: Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3170

Ho[use] Reps.

Source: Bowdoin

[38, 39]

[Letterhead]

Springfield Branch
of the
United States Christian Commission
F.A. Brewer, President
Geo. P. Geer, Vice President,
Charles Marsh, Secretary
Henry S. Lee, Treasurer
Rev. Henry Powers, General Agent.
Rooms of Young Men's Christian Association, 229 Main Street
Springfield, Mass.,

Jan 9 1866

Maj Gen Garfield
My Dear Sir

May I ask a favor of you, if your public duties leave you any leisure for such a service.

Our YM Christian Asso'n are anxious to get Maj. Gen. Howard to speak in Springfield next month. He passes thro' our place to fulfil an engagement in Boston.

May we avail ourselves of your acquaintance with the General to secure us a favorable response to our invitation, which we have forwarded herewith.

I am pleased to see, that amid the all engrossing topics of public policy which engage the attention of Congress, you do not forget so practical a matter as the New York Rail Road.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servant
Charles Marsh

P.S.

If you are unable to give this your personal attention please send the note to Gen Howard with a line from your self to gain his attention.

CM

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

Ho. Reps. Jan 16 1866

Respectfully referred to Maj Gen Howard with the hope that he may be able to accept the invitation of my friend Marsh.

J. A. Garfield [James A. Garfield, Member of Congress, 1861-1880. Elected President in 1880.]

3227 1/9/1866

From: J. M. McKim

To: Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3171

69 Nassau St
New York

Source: Bowdoin

[40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45]

69 Nassau St
New York
Jan 9th / 66

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard
Commissioner &c
My dear sir

You and your work, - and your trials – have been much on my mind during the last few weeks, and I have several times been on the point of writing to you, to express my sympathy; but as, personally, we are almost strangers to each other, and as officially we are not brought very close together, I have not felt quite at liberty to obey the impulse. But, now that the Herald has come in to reinforce <> opportunity, by clinching with its praise the nail driven in by the Independents' censure I yield to my first feeling and write to say that.

That nail – nail though it be – is not fastened in a pure place. It is neither one nor the other. That is it is neither purely driven nor tightly fastened. It was skilfully done; and it was done I doubt not with good intentions, but it missed its place & will not hold.

As a criticism the article was too severe; it was one-sided. It over-stated defects and understated virtues. It did not meter out justice with an even hand. Nor was it fair in its statements of facts.

As I understand it, and, so far as I know – those who act with me understand it:

1. The Bureau was not a heavy-helpless - immovable barge swept from the reefs by the current of public sentiment – created by the fall elections. On the contrary, it had proved itself a craft of such good sailing qualities that on the 28th of September, - before the elections – the Am F. Aid Com, a body of representative men from all parts of the country, put on record by an unanimous vote the following resolution:

[Clipping]

Resolved. That this Commission desires to express the pleasure it has in the appointment of Major General O.O. Howard, as the Head of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands; its implicit confidence in his fitness for the position, and its earnest hope that he will have such support from the Government and people as may be necessary to give the fullest effect to his labors.

If you will allow me to report - I had the pleasure of offering that resolution, and nothing has transpired since then to change my opinion of its correctness, and as it is with me so, I believe, it is with those who, with me, voted for its adoption.

To a man of your intelligence in such matters I need enter no caveat against being misunderstood. We meant no unqualified approbation. We meant of course - all things considered & with due regard to human infirmity ! But to return to the criticism.

2. It was not "impossible to attach credit to those of its active fidelity." "Rumor was not wholly in its disfavor.

3. "The enemies flanders – if flanders they were - says the Independent, went contradicted. So does this impeachment of the Independent. Does that prove its correctness?

4. Notwithstanding the seeming indifference to a connivance at the atrocities committed in Louisiana & elsewhere and the others, seeming delinquencies of the Bureau in those states, it is possible that this seeming may have done it injustice; may have admitted of an explanation of a justifying character; and due allowance should have been made for this fact by men who edit a paper which by its religious profession, teaches; Judge not according to the appearance but Judge <obvious> judgment".

5. Mr Conway's displacement – wise or unwise – is not accepted by the best friends of the Freedmen here as a strong argument against the Bureau.
6. "on the suffrage question" the Bureau has expressed no opinion because as here admitted it "perhaps has no business to do so. But well informed people understand that the Commissioner of the Bureau & his subordinates are generally in favor of impartial suffrage, and not "adverse to the Freedman's claim".
7. "The Northern associations" have either obtained all the aid they asked of the Bureau, or such an answer to their requests as prevented the "disappointment" which the Independent says "was general" & which I assert was not general.
8. "Gen. Howard is neither statesman, politician nor organizer." Part of this is true. He is not a "politician." As for the rest it is not yet true for so sweeping & dogmatic a judgment. Mr Lincoln was not a statesman, nor Mr Stanton an organizer – judging by the first 6 months of their respective administrations. It took the Independent 5 years to get either a paying subscription list or the reputation of an able newspaper.
9. "A late convert to anti-slavery" he may be, but not so late as some men where, & whose public acts, the Independent treats with high praise.
10. If there be a "rumor" that Gen Howard "advised Gen. Saxton to resign on the ground of his radicalism" that rumor finds no credit with the best, & best informed, men that I am acquainted with.
11. "The zeal of General Howard to defuse among the Freedmen a knowledge of Evangelical religion & bring them into the church is conspicuous; we are sorry to add that he seems less inclined to do full justice to their civil, social & political needs," so says the Independent. This is a frame charge, and considering the vehicle through which it <emitted> one not to be treated lightly & is a charge at one & the same time of religious narrowness, official delinquency, not to say malfeasance.
12. "But now for the moment, the Bureau seems likely receive a serviceable piece of furniture. It feels the turn in the tide." &c &c to the end of the article. In the first two thirds of this criticism the writer condemns with strong censure; in the last third he "damns with faint praise."

The writer thus concludes his diatribe: "Two months ago we were of the opinion that the Freedmen's Aid Assocns would soon be obliged to suspend. We predicted that in six months there would not be a black school in a southern state."

Now I submit that a man so short-sighted, so crooked-sighted so incapable of feeling in a matter of this kind is not the man to pass sweeping censures & dogmatic judgements upon a fellow laborer whom he at the same time admits to be: "most worthy, with a very high sense of duty, a man of pure purposes, unspotted integrity, and undoubted singleness of aim."

But I am making my letter quite too long, & - perhaps from habit - making it more of a newspaper rejoinder than a letter to a friend.

You will note that on the subject of evangelicism I make no comment. I can only say that I dont believe the charge, - albeit I am quite ignorant of the facts in the case. I dont belong to the class known as, and often self-styled "evangelical"; but I have a deep & tender sympathy with those who do if they be good. I "love the bretheren". I prize the Gospel as I understand it; and I dont disdain it even as other people understand it.

I hate narrowness. I hate the narrowness of self-assumed evangelicism; and I hate just as much, the narrowness of self assumed liberalism. I have lived long enough to know that among the paradoxes of the world there is an illiberal liberality – a sectarian anti-sectarianism, as well as an un-gospel-like evangelicism and a radically heretical orthodoxy.

My dear sir, your position is a responsible one. It imposes upon you difficult & delicate duties. It is not for me to tell you where to look for grace & strength to enable you to perform these duties. "If any man – any man – lack wisdom let him ask of God who giveth unto all men liberally & upbraideth not."

A line from you, to signify that you do not take amiss my freedom with you, will oblige

Yours most

sincerely

J. M. McKim [James Miller McKim, Cor. Sec., American Freedmen's and Union Commission]

3228 1/10/1866

From: J N Sypbee

To: Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3172

Lancaster Penn.

Washington D.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[46]

Lancaster Penn.

Jan 10 1866

General:

I have just returned from the Gulf states where I have been traveling since May. I have seen much, heard much, and thought much.

Do all you can to maintain the Freedman's Bureau, and extend rather than contract its powers, influence, and stations.

Genl Schurz's report contains much truth; perhaps the danger to northern men is magnified; otherwise the report is not an exaggeration of the state of things & people <with>

Respectfully

J N <Sypbee>

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard

Washington D.C.

3229 1/10/1866 *From:* G.F. Granger

To: Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3173

Rocky Mount N.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[47]

Rocky Mount N.C.
Jan. 10th 1866

To
Major Gen. O.O. Howard,
Gen,

I am anxious to obtain a position as Assistant Com'r in the Freedman's Bureau either in and for the counties of Edgecombe and Nash –or the counties of Mecklenburg & Cabarrus in this state. Or if in your power, any position in the Bureau that would enable me to be stationed in Edgecombe or Nash Country, or at Charlotte. If this request is not compatible with your arrangements, and you are not unwilling to confer upon me a position under you, I would be pleased to have a position in the state of Florida and if possible upon the Atlantic Coast.

I came South to spend the winter, with my wife, for pleasure, and with a view of selecting some locality for a future home. I have become tired of spending money and doing nothing and should you deem me worthy of your patronage and a position in the Freedmans Bureau I would endeavor to merit your approbation, by a strict and careful attention to my business, and a fair and just administration of any affairs that might be entrusted to me.

Your Very Resp.
G.F. Granger
Late Col. 9th Me. Vols.

[Written on the back of the first page.]

Rocky Mt. N.C.
Jan. 10th 1866
Granger, G.F.
Desires to obtain a situation in the Bureau.

3232 1/12/1866 *From:* E.M. Seabrook

To: Major General OO
Howard

OOH-3174

Charleston

Source: Bowdoin

[51]

Charleston Jany. 12th 1866

Major General OO Howard,
General,

You were kind enough to say in the interview, which I had with you in Washington, that you would be pleased to hear from me in relation to matters in this State, connected with you your Bureau, and I therefore take the liberty of writing you touching a matter of vital importance to the agricultural interest of this State, and to the welfare of both races.

The whole seaboard of So. Ca. is in a deplorable condition from the scarcity of food. I am satisfied that there are not provisions enough in this section of the state to last more than 3 months longer from this date. The planters are very desirous of returning to their plantations, and resuming planting operations, but the difficulty of procuring subsistence for their employees is a great obstacle. You expressed yourself as favouring the plan of advancing rations to the planters for their laborers for one year, to be returned in value to the govt. at the end of the year when the crops made should be harvested, and that you had recommended an appropriation by congress for that purpose. I beg leave to urge the early establishment of such an arrangement. The time has arrived when the planters should make contracts for the ensuing year, and such contracts must be based upon the supply of provisions, which they can command. To have any success at all, agricultural operations should be commenced forthwith. The speedy arrangement of this matter will render a great benefit to both races and to the country.

I regret to say that the freedmen have up to this time declined making contracts in the whole low country of So. Ca. - the idea of having land given them by the govt. is not yet dispelled. In the upper portion of the state, I am informed that contracts are being made –some are being made in the middle portion of the state also, but not generally. The freedmen on the Islands are still unwilling to contract, entertaining the idea that they are to be given these lands. I am satisfied, however, that as soon as it is announced to them positively that the lands are to be restored, and that they must contract or leave, that the great majority of the freedmen on the Islands will contract, and the same result will take place throughout the state. The prompt settlement of the question of the restoration of the Island lands is of vital importance to the whole state –the success of the free labor system in this state depends upon it. A few plantations have been restored on Edisto Island, but the work does not progress as Capt. Ketchum has been absent on a visit to Georgia for the last two weeks.

I have the honor, General,
to be, Very Respectfully,
Your obdt servt,
E.M. Seabrook

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

Charleston S.C. Jan 12, 1866

Seabrook, E.M.

Gives statement of conditions of affairs in S.C.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 18 1866

3233 1/12/1866 *From:* Wm P. Craighill

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-3175

Box 341 Balto. Md.

Source: Bowdoin

[52, 53]

Private

Balto Jan'y 12th 1866

My dear General,

Although we have not met for several and your path has been public & conspicuous, while mine has been humble & <slow>, I believe you have not forgotten me nor lost your feeling of friendship for me. I have watched your career with great interest, because I wished our country to have in yourself a proof of the fact that a Christian gentleman can at the same moment be a thorough soldier. In fact no man is so fit to be a soldier as a Christian.

Since the war has close, I have sympathised very heartily with you in the difficulties surrounding your duties as Chief of the Bureau of Freedmen. I know a good deal of the character of the negro and something of the temper of the white towards him. I think the two colors will never live comfortably together, but I am desirous to see the experiment tried.

My object in writing now is to ask, first, whether a certain officer is in your gift; and secondly that it may be conferred on my brother, should a vacancy occur. I refer to the office of physician to the Freedmen at Lynchburg, Virg'a. I have a brother who has lately settled himself there as a physician. He informs me that it is currently reported that the gentleman who now fills the place, being a volunteer surgeon, will shortly be mustered out & that one of the <rendit [CHECK ORIGINAL - Taped right edge]> physicians may be appointed in his stead. He may be mistaken as to the facts, but I have encourage him to make application to you.

Now a word with reference to him. My brother had just graduated with credit at the University of Pennsylvania when the war began. He was at his home in Virg'a when the secession fever was at its height. If he had been out of the community, he would have taken no part in their folly. He was called upon to assist in attendance upon the sick in the army assembled under the orders of Johnston near Winchester & Harpers ferry. Thence he passed into the "Confederate" service as a surgeon. He was generally on duty at a hospital, being called on very little for service in the field. The close of the war found him at Lynchburg. He at once took the amnesty oath. He informs me that he is now truly loyal & determined to be so always in the future. He is a young man of very good sense, has studied his profession thoroughly and is a good physician & surgeon. He will, I am certain, prove a careful & attentive officer, should he obtain the place he desires. He is a sincere Christian.

Excuse this long note. I tribute my anxiety in matter to the desire of one brother to help forward another who is just beginning the world. I would be gratified, if your engagements allow, to have a lin or two in reply to this.
Very truly yrs

Wm P. Craighill [USMA Class of 1853]
Box 341 Balto. Md.

[Written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]

Baltimore Jan. 12, 1866
Craighill, Wm
Friendly letter
Recd. Jan. 15th 1866