

---

3268 1/24/1866

*From:* O Brown

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3213

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands  
Head Quarters, Asst.  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia.  
Richmond, Va.

Commissioner, Bureau R F  
and A.L.

---

[106, 107]

Confidential

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands  
Head Quarters, Asst. Commissioner, State of Virginia.  
Richmond, Va.,  
January 24th 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner, Bureau R F and A.L.  
General,

I have the honor to report that the officers of the Bureau, in this state, are much embarrassed for want of men being themselves obliged in most instances to perform the duties of orderlies. They are without Guards, and I fear, without sufficient military force to command respect and obedience to their orders. The men of the Regular Army are not fit for service in the Bureau, but I suppose I must not ask for volunteers. Acts of injustice towards the Freedmen are increasing in frequency. Some relief from these embarrassments is hoped for from an order which Genl Terry will issue to day, making superintendents and Asst Superintendents of the Bureau, Provost Marshals.

I beg leave to call your attention to another matter. Orders from the Commissioner require that the same vagrant laws which apply to whites, shall be applied to blacks. You will see that the enclosed act which passed the legislature on the 16th inst, will place the Freedmen entirely in the hands of the whites. They can make such rates of wages "usual" as they please. The venom is covered by not using the word "black" but it is well understood that it that it is meant to apply especially to the Freedmen. General Terry will issue an order prohibiting civil officers from applying its provisions to the Freedmen. I will forward a copy of the order as soon as issued. Please inform me whether I shall carry out the provisions of the former state law in regard to vagrants.

I am losing confidence in the present Legislature, it cannot be depended on to do what the Bureau will regard as necessary, it cannot be depended on to do what the Bureau will regard as necessary to secure justice to the Freedmen.

I am, General  
very respecty, your obt Servt  
O Brown  
Col and Asst Comr

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

Richmond, Va. Jan 24th 1866

Brown, O.

Col. & Asst. Comr.

States that the officers of the Bureau need men for guards and orderlies, that the present vagrant laws place the blacks at the mercy of the whites, that Gen. Terry will counteract the law by an order.

Recd. Jan 25th 1866

---

3269 1/24/1866 *From:* C. M. Strickland

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

OOH-3214

Richmond Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[103]

Richmond Ind.  
Jan 24th 1866.

Maj. Gen O.O. Howard,  
Sir,

Enclosed I send you a communication from the War Dept. I need not say to you, that I do not wish to go down there, if it can be avoided. Will you see Gen Townsend, & see if I can avoid it! My health just at present will not permit me to leave home, or I would come to Washington. If I am compelled to go, how are the expences to be paid? Please arrange this for me if possible.

I am truly yrs  
C. M. Strickland

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

Richmond Ind.

Jan 24th / 66

C.M. Strickland

Wants to know if he must attend the Court Martial at Charleston as requested by Maj Gen Sickles, and if so how the expenses are to be defrayed.

Rec'd Bureau RF & AL Jan 30th /66

Ans'd Jan 30th / 66 –See Press Letter Book

---

3270 1/24/1866 *From:* O Brown

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3215

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen &  
Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters, Asst  
Commissioner, State of  
Virginia  
Richmond, Va.

---

[104, 105]

Personal

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,  
Head Quarters, Asst Commissioner, State of Virginia  
Richmond, Va.  
January 24 1866

Maj Genl Howard  
Commissioner &c  
General -

I enclose herewith "Times" of yesterday. You will see how determined the legislature is to contrive "how not to do it".

The Com. appointed to confer with me (consisting of five from the Senate and ten from the House) after many "Pow wows" became unanimous for the support of the "Bill" abolishing the whole Negro code" but the newspapers began to warn them "against being influenced from Washington or by the Freedmen's Bureau" and succeeded in frightening the legislature to such an extent, that the bill that will finally pass will be materially different from the first proposed.

In regard to the "Republic" (newspaper) I will give this item in its history.

About two weeks ago Mr Lewellen (the Editor and proprietor) came to me and stated that he should close the Office in five days and wished me to find a purchaser. I urged him to remain and promised to aid him in procuring funds to continue its publication, before the expiration of the time I secured for him the necessary means, and he will continue on. I have communicated with Northern friends and believe their assistance will not only keep up the paper, but if plans now on foot can be perfected, its tone, will be greatly improved and its usefulness increased.

I am General with much <>  
Your Obt Servt  
O Brown

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

Richmond, Va. Jan 24 1866

Brown, O.

Col. & Asst. Comr.

States that the Legislature will not do justice to the Freedmen. Also that the "Republic" will probably be sustained.

Rec'd Jan 25th 1866

---

3271 1/24/1866

*From:* H W Gray

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

OOH-3216

29 Mount Vernon Street  
Boston

Washington D.C.

---

*Source:* Bowdoin

[108]

29 Mount Vernon Street  
Boston January 24, 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Dear Sir,

It will give me great pleasure if you will dine with me on Friday February 2d at six o'clock, to meet Governor Bullock and a small party. Hoping a favorable reply,

I remain very resp yours  
H W Gray

---

3272 1/24/1866      *From:* Richard M. Nelson      *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3217                      Goldsboro, North  
                                         Carolina

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[110, 109]

Goldsboro, North Carolina  
Wednesday Jan. 24th 1866

General,

Doubtless you are surprised upon opening this, and looking at the bottom, to see who penned it, and it is with the extremest diffidence, I take the liberty of intruding upon your valuable time. Did I think you would regard what is to follow as an application merely from an unpardoned "ebel" to one high in authority among the "oyal" for a favor which his position could grant, I had not commenced. All that has been told me of you by friend and foe, your distinguished career in the field and bureau, as set forth in the public prints, unite to convince me, that Oliver O. Howard, though changed in rank, is unchanged as a man—that the same qualities of mind and heart, which in the balmy days of yore won my admiration and regard, still remain unimpaired by time and circumstances. Believing thus, I, who have experienced at your hands many kindnesses, and shall ever be grateful to you and your lady for the hospitalities you so generously extended to me as a cadet, venture to ask at your hands what I cannot and would not ask from another's.

The 23 August 1865, under the belief that I came under the exception of the President's Amnesty Proclamation, regarding those educated at West Point, I wrote and forwarded through the Provisional Governor of Alabama, an application for Pardon. This set forth that I was a citizen of Dallas County Ala, a student at San, who, having at divers and sundry places, as an officer of the Confederate Army, opposed the constituted authority of the U.S. Government; and, having submitted to said authority, and taken the prescribed oath of amnesty, respectfully prayed to be restored to my rights of person and property as though I had never offended &c. The point I made was my extreme youth at the time hostilities commenced, being as you recollect but eighteen years of age. The principles involved concerned me little, as I did not understand them. I fought for home and kindred. Had I been a Northern man, I had fought with you. All I have done since the surrender has been in good faith. We fought for a large stake, and lost. You for the same, and won. It would no more become us to be sullen and revengeful, than for you to be exultant and tyrannical. I had thought our "ebels" would be hanged, banished, or imprisoned for life. Your Government, - our Government—I should say—has been generous far beyond my anticipations—for the infliction of such punishment as I have enumerated for the simple crime of "ebellion" yet remains for the future.

Since the application left my hands I have heard nothing of it. As I left Alabama on the 27th November, it is possible something concerning it may have been received there.

If it be not too much trouble, will you enquire at the Dept of State if such an application has ever been received, and if so what disposition has been made of it?

If none, may I further ask your influence with the Executive in procuring it favorable consideration? I have some doubts as to my coming under the exception, as I was not educated fully at the Academy, but only in part. What do you think of it? If not included will you withdraw my application, and return it to me, if this be possible?

Am I unconscionable in my requests? Should you think so, merely acknowledge the receipt of this, and I will annoy you no more. Unless you do so, I shall not believe it has ever reached you and may intrude again.

It may not be amiss to recall the fact that I owe you a letter, your two last having come duly to hand after I reached home in 1861. Your introduction of myself to C.C. Lee procured me an acquaintance of which I shall ever feel favored. He was an excellent officer and gallant who "obly, fighting fell" at Malvern. I was there and must confess your folks gave us a terrible drubbing.

I must not forget to thank you for forwarding the letters which arrived at the Academy after I had left.

How are Mrs. Howard, and little Guy and Grace? Big Guy and Grace I expect they are now. I should like very

much to see you all, and were I not so abominably poor would drop in to see you some fine morning in Washington. My last recollection of West Point, is of Mrs. Howard and Mrs Wayne waving their handcherkiefs in tokens of good bye, from the Wharf, after I had crossed the river. Pleasant times those of '59 and '60 –pleasanter than any of us may see again. I am now at home on a visit. Shall remain in Goldsboro until the first of March probably, after that my address will be Cahaba Ala.

I know you will be glad to know I still hold on to the Faith we both professed, when we used to gather in that dear old Prayer meeting room. Is the prayer-meeting still kept up, or did it cease with your departure?

I have written naturally and consequently more at length than I intended.

An old pupil, do you still regard as an old friend.

Yours Very Truly

Richard M. Nelson [USMA class of 1863, entered Sept, 1859 from North Carolina, but left at the start of the war.]

Genl. Oliver O. Howard  
Washington City  
D.C.

[Written at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
ansd by C.H.H.

---

3240 1/15/1866 *From:* W. H. Pillsbury

*To:* Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard

OOH-3218

Bucksport Me.

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[111, 112]

Bucksport Me. Janry 15 '66

Maj. Genl. Howard  
Dear Gen.

During my absence, Rev. Mr. Hutchinson wrote you a few days since, requesting a Lecture by you while on your approaching eastern tour. He did not know that you are to be in Boston the week before your Lecture in Bangor. I therefore take this liberty to address you again, and urgently to request you to come to our place at any time and for any eve most convenient for you during your visit to Maine. Our Lectures in the course are on Wednesday eve; but I assure you we are all so anxious to see you to do you honor as one of our Country's Savior's under the Supreme Savior –through whom the Nation –its constitution, liberty, justice & righteousness triumph –and to hear you –that we will give you an audience equal to our utmost capacity for accommodation; and it shall be an appreciating audience.

Now - Dear Sir - I hope you will feel & appreciate the force of our wishes; and will wait your decision.

Yours with much much respect  
W. H. Pillsbury

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

Bucksport, Me. Jan. 25/66

Pillsbury, W.H.

Desires Gen H. to lecture in Bucksport Maine

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D JAN 29 1866

---

3273 1/26/1866      *From:* Thomas W. Conway      *To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3219

792 Broadway  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[113, 114]

New York Jan. 26th 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard,  
Commissioner &c,  
Genl:

I beg leave to enclose herewith my letter published yesterday in the "Evening Post" in this city. The subject on which it treats is one in which you feel deep interest.

I am very glad to see that the Bureau bids fair to be sustained by Congress. I presume I have written a hundred letters intending to show the necessity for its continuance. God holds the Helm of this ship, and her safe arrival in the Port of perfect justice becomes more and more certain.

That the President will sustain the Bureau is more certain in my mind than formerly. Perhaps in the light of his experience up to this time, he sees how indispensable it is to the peace and welfare of the country. Mr. Chase writes me that the President will throw the weight of his influence on the side of justice. Under the new law I see how enormous will be your work. I suppose I ought to engage to assist you. Have written to Gen. Fisk and received a reply which expresses a desire for my services.

I have my regrets that I did not proceed to Nashville when you gave me an order so to do, but the prospect of going to Europe under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce of this city, led me to feel that in no way could I do greater good, and so wrote you the letter on the subject which resulted in my receiving your order of acceptance of my resignation.

I see that several states not included in the first bill (act March 3d 1865) are not to be embraced. This will give room for the appointment of additional Assistant Commissioners. Several of the best men in this city (and of those most cordially in sympathy with you and your work) urge my reappointment by the President. Although I feel that such an appointment would be no more than justice to me at the President's hands, yet I am so fully satisfied you would assign me to such duty as you deemed me adapted to, that I should deprecate any effort to reach the President by any process which did not originate with you, or at least, have your consent and recommendation.

You see now that I am inclined to reenter the service of the Bureau. In announcing this readiness I feel fully inclined to accept such duty as you may designate. Should you feel desirous of appointing me with Gen. Fisk as was intended in the previous order, I will proceed thence, should you consider it proper to recommend my reappointment by the President as Assistant Commissioner, I can procure the most cordial approval of Mr. Chase, Mr. Beecher, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Raymond, Gen. Banks and others, any of whom will go and see the President on the subject. I propose going to Washington very soon, and I will see you on this subject. I hope I do not annoy you.

Very truly yours,  
Thomas W. Conway  
792 Broadway

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

New York City

Jan 26th / 66

T. W. Conway Esq

Encloses his letter published January 25, in the N.Y. Evening Post; is glad to find the Bureau will be continued, and feels more certain that the President will now sustain it; has written to General Fisk, whose reply expressed a desire for his services; sees that several States not included in first bill are now to be embraced, and feels that an appointment to one of them would be no more than justice to him at the hands of the President; feels fully



inclined to accept any duty to which the Commissioner might assign him.  
Recd. Jan. 27th 1866

---

3274 1/26/1866

*From:* L.D. Bowker

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3220

Lincoln College  
Topeka, Kansas

*Source:* Bowdoin

---

[115]

Topeka Ks  
Jan 26th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I did not go through Washington D.C. as I thought I might when I saw you. Lincoln College has opened with thirty students. Three professors have been elected. Two of them - Mr Butterfield and myself are from Maine. I think they would like to get a man who hails from Maine and who has been a Maj Gen. in the Army to become its President - this is "inter nos". Everything looks well.

Whenever you wish to remit your kind subscription of \$100, you can send it in a draft on New York payable to L.D. Bowker, or order.

Yours Very Truly  
L.D. Bowker  
Lincoln College  
Topeka, Kansas