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3289 2/1/1866

*From:* Frank Moore

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3235

*Source:* Bowdoin

Historical Rooms  
No 45 Bible House  
New York City

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[45, 46]

Historical Rooms  
No 45 Bible House  
New York City

General:

For the completion of the Rebellion Record I find that I need a considerable number of the reports of operations during the last year of the war. Will you have the goodness to forward to me any reports of yours which have not yet been published in the Rebellion Record, or which you have not already forwarded to me for publication. Besides the completion of the Record according to the plan upon which it was started, and with which I presume you are familiar, I propose to publish in a large volume and in style very similar to that of the Record, a series of condensed military narratives, to be written in person by the Generals on both sides. The objects of such a work are to give to the world an authentic and thoroughly impartial history of the war, written by those who are in fact the only persons that can speak of the various operations with absolute fidelity to truth.

It is, of course, not to be expected that such reports will embrace the full details of all the operations, and of every battle in which your command was engaged. This would swell my volume to a size quite beyond the popular reach. Another design of this work is to give to the world in a shape, that is accessible, the true military record of every General prominently engaged on either side, at least, all those who survive to write their own reports. I am aware that there is a 'General Order' requesting all Generals who have had important commands to forward to the War Department a resume of their operations during the war. Many such reports have been made and forwarded. But it is very well known that many of the Generals will not comply with this order, at least in a manner to make their report of any special value, and nothing of the sort is expected by the Government from the Southern Generals. If printed as they will probably be by Congress, the printing will be in the ordinary style of public documents, in a large type, and with very imperfect indexes, so that practically your report to the Department will be preserved indeed and will be accessible to historians and public men, but utterly beyond all popular knowledge or access. Embracing also as my design does, the reports of Southern as well as Northern Generals, it will be the only volume in existence, in which the results of the various general engagements are placed in such a form that comparison can readily be made.

On this account, as well as for other reasons, it is desirable that your report should be complete, and as accurate as you may have the means of making it, in respect to dates, numbers and losses. I would thank you to give the size, or about the size of the particular corps or command which you took into battle, and also to state to the best of your knowledge, the name of the commanding officer who was opposed to you, and whose troops you met. You see it is my object to produce a work that shall be perfectly authentic, and afford the means of settling decisively the question as to whether a particular command was outnumbered by the enemy, in this or that engagement.

I would also state that it is my design that the volume shall be embellished, with very handsome steel engravings of a large number of the commanding officers, and that in typography and execution, it shall leave nothing to be desired, and yet be sold at such a price, as to put it within the reach of the masses.

With regard to the length of these condensed military narratives, I may say that the recent report of Lieutenant-General Grant, covering all the operations of the United States forces, from the time that he assumed command of all the armies down to the surrenders of April and May 1865, is a very good model for a narrative of general operations.

It is very desirable in writing of battles, that some condensed yet clear account should be given of the topography of the whole field, or of that part of it where you commanded.

It may be proper to add, that each narrative, will be prefaced by a biographical sketch, which taken in connexion with your narrative, will give all the leading events of each General's life up to the end of the war.

Yours truly  
Frank Moore

[Note: The body of the letter was written in a different hand than the last two lines.]

[Written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York City  
"Historical Rooms" 45 Bible House  
Frank Moore  
Requests Report of the General's Campaigns &c  
[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D FEB 1 1866

[Written in pencil] Acknowledge

[Note: A date of the letter was not written, so the date it was received at the Bureau has been used.]

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3290 2/1/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3236

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands.  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia.  
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bureau R.F.A L  
Washington D.C.

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[129, 130]

Personal

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia.  
Augusta, Ga., Feb 1st 1866.

Dear General

I learned through a friend from Savannah that Col H. F. Sickles who was recently mustered out with his Regiment, entertained some unkind feelings towards me and that he proposed to go on to Washington and if possible do me some mischief. If this should prove true I should be very much surprised, I certainly am unconscious of having acted in a way to excite Col Sickles animosity and have not done any thing I would not be perfectly willing he should make known. As you will recollect he was a dull slow man, and that it cost a great deal of labor to make him understand what ought to be done –but I always thought he was honest and in earnest and I cannot find it in my heart to believe that he ever be guilty of such a piece of treachery. Still I thought I would write you on the subject. I should like very much to know what possible cause of complaint he can have.

I am Yours Very Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl Vols  
A.A.C.

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Comr Bureau R.F.A L  
Washington D.C.

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

Augusta Georgia  
February 1st / 66  
Davis Tillson  
Brig Genl and  
A Asst Commr

Has learned that Col. H.F. Sickles recently mustered out, is proposing to go to Washington and endeavor to do him some mischief, and makes some comments upon the Colonel's characteristics etc.

Rec'd Bureau R F & A L Feb 6th / 66

[Written in pencil to the right of the summary.] Brief Rec'd Feb 7th

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3291 2/1/1866

*From:* John M. Oliver

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3237

St Louis Mo

Freedmans Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131, 132]

St Louis Mo  
Feby 1st 1866

Dear Sir,

On reaching this place I was much disappointed to find that General Sherman had gone to Washington.

You may remember the conversation we had, on the subject of the increase of the Army & of my getting a field position in it, one evening walking from your house to 3d Street. If you can help me, I earnestly beg you to do so. Be sure that I will be truly grateful to you for your friendship & kindness to me whether you succeed in this matter or not. I am very anxious about it for my childrens sake more than mine own. They must be educated now, but I won't bother you with my reasons & fancies. Give my best wishes & respects to your wife & family.

Truly your  
Friend & Servant  
John M. Oliver

To Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Freedmans Bureau  
Washington  
D.C.

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3292 2/1/1866

*From:* T.W. Osborn

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

OOH-3238

Tallahassee Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133]

Tallahassee Florida  
Feb. 1st 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
My Dear General

This strange slip of paper which I inclose came to me to day from Chaplain Moore Supt Ed. For the State who has remained at Jacksonville & there performed his duties. I am entirely unable to conjecture what it means. The Chaplain is not a man to get up a stampede for a stampede sake & so I surmise there is something behind this which I do not know. I am not aware of having given occasion for any serious attacks from any reliable persons & so send you this. I would prefer to meet anything square & if a defense or an acknowledgement of a wrong act or missmanagement is necessary to make it.

Pardon me if I am taking too much for granted on so slight a rumor. I have attempted to deal justly & honorably in every capacity to treat all men like men no matter who or what they were & to maintain myself in all respects as an officer & a gentleman. I trust General you will treat this matter kindly & give me any information that may be proper.

I am General  
Very Truly Your Obt Servt  
T.W. Osborn  
&c

[Attachment –small piece of paper]

A very private suggestion

Then I A.C.B.F.R.&A.L. for Florida, I would write to Gen'l Howard and ask him to give me the full particulars of a representation made there by an outsider not long since, and by whom.

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3293 2/2/1866

*From:* B. Heckert

*To:* Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3239

Allegheny, Alleg City  
Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[134]

Allegheny, Alleg City Pa.

Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir,

The undersigned would most respectfully adress you in behalf of the National Temperance League of Allegheny City to know at what time and on what terms you could give one or two lectures in this place (if at all) in behalf of the temperance cause. The friends of the cause have need the aid and asistance of great and good men both at home & abroad to enable them to sucessfully stem the tide of intemperance in our midst. Feeling that you will have a desire to visit Pittsburgh and as we have only the River between us. Therefore hoping to receive an early & favourable response

I remain yours respectfully

B. Heckert

Alleg, Feb. 2nd / 66

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

Allegheny City Pa.

February 2d / 66

B. Heckert

Invites Major General Howard to lecture in that city.

Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb <> / 66

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3294 2/4/1866

*From:* W.H. Greenwood

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

OOH-3240

Superintendents Office  
S.A. & M.G. R.R.  
Victoria Texas

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[136, 137, 138]

Superintendents Office S.A. & M.G. R.R.  
Victoria Texas Feb 4th 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard,

I have the honor to call your attention to the following statements. When Maj. Gen. Stanley came to this department he placed me in charge of the rebuilding of the rail-road from this place to Lavaca, (on Matagorda Bay) a distance of thirty miles. The road is now open, and though not fully finished yet, it answers the purpose, to bring Govt freight to this place and will soon be in good condition. The road passes through what is called the Hog-wollen prairie which in wet weather is almost impassable. I look upon the building of the road on from here to San Antonio a distance of one hundred and ten miles, as one of the most important works in the State and my object in calling your attention to this road is to try and enlist your influence to procure an appropriation by Congress to help build the road at once. I think the building of the road would be of benefit to the Government in two ways.

1st It will insure the Government a much cheaper line of transportation from the Gulf to the borders of Texas. San Antonio has always been the Depot for troops on the border, and the Supplies have passed through this place. It has cost the Government the past season three (3) dollars a hundred pounds to get the supplies from the Gulf to San Antonio, and if the rail-road was done it could be done for less than one dollar. I presume the Government will keep at least ten thousand troops on the border of Texas, as that must be supplied from San Antonio, (That is if they wish to keep things quiet) and they will save some two hundred thousand dollars a year by the building of the rail-road. The rail-road Company have a grant of Sixteen Sections of land (or 10240 acres) for each mile of road built, which will nearly pay for the building of the road when it can be brought into market. The trouble now is to get the ready money, and I think if the Government would show that they have confidence in the road by a loan of a million of dollars, it would insure the building of the road at once and the Government would save money in the end.

2d The building of the road would give employment to the Freedmen of this state, and bring in a large number of men from the north and in that way, the country would improve very fast, and that would tend to turn the minds of the people, from that sore subject (the liberation of their slaves) to the more active pursuits of business, and in that way, trouble would be prevented.

I am ready to say with a full conviction of the fact, that if the Government intends to uphold the Freedman in his new position thereby must support him in this state by the presence of troops. The building of a rail-road will in a few years do away with this necessity for it will bring enough northern men here to rule the country by the Ballot Box.

Capt. Scott is the agent for the Bureau here and I think he will agree with me in saying that the Government cannot make a better investment than to loan this Company, which is called San Antonio & Mexican Gulf R.R., money enough to help build the road. John C. French the President of the road will visit Washington soon and I will give him a letter of introduction to you and if you can do any thing for him, which will eventually be of benefit to the Government you will confer a favor upon me. I have written this letter thinking that if any facts in regard to this subject, and believe me to be

Your Obt Servant  
W.H. Greenwood  
Supt. U.S.M.R.R.  
Victoria Texas

[Written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Victoria, Feb. 4th 1866  
Greenwood, W.H.

Desires Gen. Howard to use his influence to introduce a bill into Congress to load a million dollars to the San Antonio and M.G. R.R. Co. to help them finish their road.  
[Written in pencil, in another hand.] Committee