Hon. A. Everett
Ch. Judic. Comm
U.S.S.

Sir,

Understanding that
the House Amendment to the Freedmen's Bureau Bill by which the
operations of the Bureau are continued to the end of the
year 1866, was suspended Feb 1st unt;
exclud. the State of Maryland
I beg leave to submit certain
papers which have recently come
relating to this Office, showing
the need of the Bureau Agency
in that State. Ever respectfull

Washington, Feb 8, 1866
that the new Bill should be so drawn as to apply to that State.

Very respectfully,

C. H. Howard

P.S.

As we have no copies of these papers, I must request that you return them to be kept among the records of your office.
Described in these papers have increased in number and severity for want of sufficient proper U.S. Officers there, the number of Bureau Agents having been hitherto limited, owing to the questionable jurisdiction in Maryland under the original Bill establishing the Bureau.

The papers accompanying this are only specimens of many which can be produced if necessary.

Many of the able men of Md. have expressed an earnest desire to have the jurisdiction of the Bureau extend to that State and in view of such expressions as well as from his own knowledge of the need Maj. Gen. Howard was very desirous.
Centreville, Parish of St. Mary, Louisiana
February 7, 1866

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
Superintendent Freedmens Bureau - Abandoned lands to 3

Dear Sir:

I have been frequently solicited by my friends Geo. Wells and the Hon. Charles Smith, to write you as to the condition of, as well as the general working of the Freedmens Bureau in my section of the country. I have finally concluded to do so, because I see such wanton and gross misrepresentation of facts in nearly every newspaper that has come under my notice.

One word by way of introducing myself. At the out-break of the war I was a slave-owner in a small way, being a physician with an extensive country practice. My wife likewise, as well as nearly all of our immediate relatives, was a large planter owning great numbers of slaves. Every pecuniary interest, together with my affections, was found up in the South and her institutions;

yet through it all, I never wavered one moment in my devotion to the Union, and what I deemed the cause of the Right and God. I have suffered much of course, but the decisionists were failed to respect my evident sincerity of principle; and it is a melancholy fact of mine, that I am the only man in my parish who did not take the oath of allegiance to Jeff. Davis - So much for myself.

As to the condition of the freedman and the working of the "Bureau," I will here remark, that it is too frequently the case, that mismanagement and faults committed by the agents of the Bureau are invariably credited to the poor negro. Now dislike to have their good judgement impugned, and
the old slave-holders and ex-slave have prophesied so often — in all times and all places — that the negro would not move as a free man, and that we could not live in community with him at any rate — that they can not bear to see their predictions fail. The consequence is that very little progress is magnified into a crime; facts are distorted, while not infrequently the exact opposite of the truth is published. Now, sir, I am no fanatic, but I am a lover of justice and truth, and I now say to you, what I stated the other day in discussion on the subject: I ask the parish of St. Mary; there were two classes of people: the one, the predominant, owning the other, and realizing all the temporal benefits accruing from such a condition — education, personal ease, everything that money could procure: the other class degraded by generations of slavery. Both professed to believe in the teachings of Christ and his Apostles. A great, sudden, and violent change came. The slave was free. Which class, so far, has exhibited the most Christian virtues? One would naturally suppose that the men refined and educated while would have showed himself superior in all things — I say nothing about the white, but I do say that no single outrage — not one — has come to my ears, perpetrated by a black man anywhere within the parish of St. Mary since the surrender." A great deal has been said about the negro refusing to work for five dollars. I deny the fact; but when I ask that it is the case — the price of labour will regulate itself if let alone. As far as my experience goes the land-owners have combined to give the negro too little, and thus far have succeeded. In my own parish, where there is great scarcity of labour, the freedmen have willingly contracted with their one
mowen at the rate of ten (10) dollars a month for first-class hands. This
perhaps, is a fair rate for St. Mary, when very few will be able to make much
for two years at least. Had the planters seed cane, and were they gen-

erally in the condition they were before the war, they could well afford to pay
twenty-five (25) and twenty-five (25) dollars a month.

Now Sir, I know how well you have justified the arduous duties that have
dusted upon you— I know how conscientiously you have laboured. True, honest and earnest you have been. Believe me, Sir, when I, a stranger and
a Southerner, tell you that you are most fully appreciated by the real
Union men—men who have, as I, sacrificed their all for the Union; and by all
men, family and dear friends as well as money. I know the sacrifices you have made, (directly or indirectly) that you are trying to accomplish. This is not compliment, Sir, but a simple preliminary, that I might say what I deem to be the truth, viz.: Your
agents, as far as my limited observation has gone, have either been men disposed of
making money utterly regardless of the true interests of either black or white; or
well meaning but fanatical enthusiasts, entirely and totally wrapped up in
the negro and ignoring the white altogether. This is not what the negro wants.
Give him simple equality before the law, and I will guarantee him an honest,
industrious, worthy labourer—a labourer that will be sought above any
other labourer by those who are to-day, owning him down. The adult, family-
man,(Negro) does not expect to be anything else in his generation, but a master of wood
and drawer of water. This condition he accepts most cheerfully and willingly
for himself; but for his children, he hopes for wonderful things. Education,
that great philosophers stone, is to develop them into gentlemen equal to their
old models—their masters. They see them in their imagination, reading the Bible and writing letters—a consummation which they think to be the height of human bliss.

One word more, sir, regarding schools.

There should be a thoroughly qualified superintendents appointed for each State. At present there seems to be no regular system. I have seen in one parish a state of general sorrow prevalent among the older negroes, resulting entirely from a drunken school master. The negro has raised education into almost a divine institution, and anything or anybody that debauch from its dignity loses materially the influence it should rightfully exercise over the negro. It would be well, I think, to choose the superintendents as far as possible (other things being equal) from Southern influential men. They not only understand the negro character, but could have great weight in securing necessary appropriations of lands and money from the State.

We must not only have good teachers, but they must be well paid. Under proper management, I am sure, that a system of free common schools for these children could, in three months, be put in successful operation throughout the State. I regard education as the great and one thing needful. I have expended what little means and influence I possessed in establishing private schools in plantations, and it is pleasant to see the almost holy regard the adult negro has for it. So many a day passes that I am not sought by freedmen from a distance who offer to work for me at very small wages, because, they say, you will have our children taught right. Already they know the difference between a good teacher and a bad one.

There is such a bitter prejudice existing against ‘nigger schools’ that
very few really good teachers are to be met with in the country; and one can scarcely blame a refined and sensitive man or woman from hesitating or refusing such a load of odium—no matter what the pay. Let Southern born Union men be appointed as far as possible and a great change will soon be apparent. I feel very deeply on this subject—if we fail in our duty on this point towards the freedman, we fail in all. If we but educate him properly, the freedman will give us no further trouble—No need to trouble ourselves about the labour or suffrage questions if we but give the negro what he has the right to expect of us in the way of education.

Pardon me, my dear Sir, for this crude and lengthy letter. My only excuse for thus troubling you is, the conviction, that if but a few Union men in each Southern State, were to inform you of the actual condition of affairs in their section, you would be enabled to act much more efficiently and satisfactorily.

May a kind Providence preserve your life and health, giving you at the same time of His wisdom that you may finally and gloriously complete the great work you have devoted yourself to, is the sincere prayer of

Your obedient servant,

Dr. Chas. Clay Allen
Natchitoches Parish, La.

Feb. 1st 1861

Allen, Dr. Shakespeare

States his views concerning the condition
and hopes & prospects
of the freedmen.
234 Madison Ave.
New York, Feb 8, 1866

My dear Sir:

I hear with great pleasure that you have accepted the invitation of the Lecture Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association to lecture on Saturday evening the 17th. I invite you that you will address one by mail at that hour. I will reach here so that I may take you with your family to my own home.
Mrs. Howard and your little ones,

As president from association here, I am greatly disappointed to be detained from the general Convention in Philadelphia last summer and so fail to renew my acquaintance with you. They do not disappoint me in this anticipated pleasure with you.

My best regards and the most cordial known...
When you next pass a quiet Sunday and enable one to enjoy a little of the kind comfort and hospitality much appreciated at your hands in Camp at the East part of the bar — when visiting your Brigade and a member of the Allotment Congregation.

I am living quite near the New Raccoon Station and have a great abundance of room and feel free I can make you more comfortable than at an Hotel. Mrs. Dodge will be most happy to care for
New York Feb 8th 1865

Dodge, M. A. (Jr.)

invited then shared

If make him (Mr. D.)

honde his home

ating his stay in

Invitation accepted

Ignatius Burt
Portsmouth Oct 9th

Gent: Wm.:

A few Ladies of Portsmouth have formed an Association for the purpose of raising funds to erect a Monument in Portsmouth in memory of the Soldiers of the County who lost their lives in the late rebellion.

Wishing have the pleasure of meeting you in Portsmouth, and knowing your obliging disposition, therefore, with less reluctance I ask, if it would not trespass too much on your valuable time, you would be so kind as to come to Portsmouth and deliver a lecture for that purpose.

Wm: S. Creasy
Miss G. not only be gratified, but
the community also, as Hook Homestead has a great many friends here who
would be delighted to hear him.
If it were the convenience for
you to come. If you be good enough to
let us know at your earliest convenience,
also you turn.

Yours respectfully,

Miss & Mr. Mayteau

Genl Homestead.
Roswell Park.

Upon the N.

 discovers them. Down
 and his lectures.

C.R. Lewis
United States Sanitary Commission.

Historical Bureau, 21 West 12th Street.
New York, Feb 9, 1866

To Major General Howard

General,

A committee of gentlemen whose names you will find within
have just awarded $750
in prizes to the fourteen
best writers with the left
hand, among our brave
soldiers who have lost
their arms, in whose right
hand, “writing” is literally placed.

The writing was excellent.

The committee would
have given a prize to two hundred out of the 250 candidates.

So admirable too was the substance of the original compositions, that the committee recommends Mr. Boume, who projected the plan, to collect & publish a volume of these contributions in illustration of the temper & talent of our discharged invalids.

I was requested to ask of you, as one 'touched with a feeling of their inferiority,' to make some brief communication, addressed perhaps to the left-arm men.
which the Committee could use in furthering the interest
state of the proposed volume, which will be made to give the cause
Chair, to the Soldiers,
I suppose.

If your duties will permit you to do so, this service, it will be
highly appreciated by
my fellow Committee
men of my gender, along
Perfectly & truly
Henry M. Pellow

59. 8. 204
New York
New York City
February 9, 1863

Henry W. Bellows & Co.

Sincerely as contributions from Maj. Genl. Howard as volumes of literary compositions written by dis. charged soldiers other than those of our arms in the service.

To be sent by the 1st of March.

[Signature]
WASHINGTON, D.C. Feb 10, 1866

With the Office of the Secretary

I found the letter to

Get them and, so that it will

reach the intended meanings
delay, 1st of July.

God be with you
Tallahassee, Florida
Feb. 10th, 1846

Maj. Genl. O. H. Howard
Comm. B. B. Ft. A. L.

General,
This letter will introduce
50 in to Maj. Hals, Supt. Con.
schools Florida - late Chaplain
20th U.S.C.T.

Supt. Hals goes out in
the interest of the schools for free
people in this state under the
new law. It is a glorious new
& deeply interested in the great
work of the people under his control.
I hope you may be able to
assist him in overwinding his
work to a final success.

Very Respectfully yours,

J. M. Wharton
Cap. 1st U. S. C. T.