

War Department,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.

Washington, Feb 8 1866

Hon. S. Sumner
Ch. Judiciary Com
U. S. S.

Sir

Understanding that
the House Amendment to the Freed-
men's Bureau Bill by which the
operations of the Bureau are con-
fined to States where the Habeas
Corpus was suspended Feb 1st inst.
excludes the State of Maryland

I beg leave to submit certain
papers which have recently accu-
mulated at this Office, showing
the need of the Bureau Agency
in that State. Evils like those

that the new Bill should be so drawn
as to apply to that State.

I am, Sir,

Very Respectfully

Yrs. obdt. Servt.

C. A. Howard

Brig. Gen.

Asst. Com^d D. C.

P. S.

As we have no copies of these papers I must
request that you return them to be kept among the
records of this office.

C. A. H.

described in these papers have increased in number and quality 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} ~~needed~~.

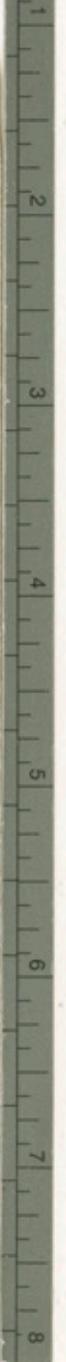
Many of the loyal men of Md. have expressed an earnest desire to have the jurisdiction of the Bureau extend to that State and in view of such expressions as well as from his own knowledge of the need Maj. Gen. Howard was very desirous

Mr. Clarke upon report of a Special Agent that three Cossaks of Md. is enclosed, was sent from them Wagon, & Carriage and reliable Officer.

Lo. Ho. Howard
Part. Pring. Rev.

Letter to Sen. Prudden

S & S



Centerville - Parish of St. Mary - Louisiana

February 8th 1846

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Maj. Genl. C. O. Howards

Superintendent, Freedmens Bureau - Abandoned lands &c

Dear Sir;

I have been frequently solicited by my friends Gov. 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's father, 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 bound 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 Just. I have suffered much of course, but the secessionists never failed to respect my evident sincerity of principle; and it is a melancholy boast 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. Men dislike to have their good judgement impugned, and

the old slave-holder and censor have prophesied so often - in all times and all places - that the negro would not work 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 every little peccadillo is magnified into a crime; facts are distorted, while not unfrequently 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 street. "Take the parish of St. Mary; here were two classes of people; the one, the predominant, owning the other, and realizing all the temporal benefits resulting 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 more refined and cultivated white, 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 save for exorbitant wages - I deny the fact; but suppose 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 old

owners at the rate of ten (10) dollars per month for first class hands. This, 144
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 sud-cane, and were they, gene-
rally in the condition they were before the war, they could well afford to pay
twenty (20) and twenty five (25) dollars per month.

Now Sir, I know how well you have fulfilled the arduous duties that have
devolved upon you - I know how conscientiously you have laboured - how true,
honest and earnest you have been. Believe me then, Sir, when I, a stranger and
a Louisianaian, 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
I mean family and dear friends as well as money. I know the Herculean (really
African) tasks 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 more desirous 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, crying him down. The adult, family-
man (negro) does not expect to be anything else in his generation, but a hewer 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 superintendent appointed for each State. At present there seems to be no fixed system. I have seen in one parish a state of general sorrow prevalent among the elder negroes, resulting entirely from a drunken school-master - The negro has erected education into almost a divine institution, and anything or anybody, that detracts from its dignity, lessens materially the influence it should rightfully exert 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 would 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 black 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 on plantations, and it is pleasant to see the almost holy regards the adult negro has for it. Scarcely a day passes that I am not sought by freed-men 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 question, 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, would 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 this 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. Shakespeare Allen

Westville, Parish of St. Mary
Louisiana
Feb. 8th 1846.

Allen, Dr. Shakespeare

Gives his views con-
cerning the condition
and hopes & prospects
of the freedmen.

Recd. Feb. 14th 1846.

234 Madison Ave
New York July 8 1866



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My dear Sir
I hear
with great pleasure
that you have
accepted the
invitation of the
Lecture Committee of
^{our} Young Men's Christian
Assocⁿ to lecture on
Saturday Evening the
17th Inst I write to beg
that you will advise
me by mail at what
hour you will reach
here so that I may
take you with your
family to my own home

Mrs Howard and your little ones

As president of our association
here, I was greatly disappointed
to be detained from the general
Conventions in Philadelphia last Summer,
and so fail to renew my acquaintance
with you. Pray do not disappoint
me in this anticipated pleasure
with great respect

and the most cordial
believe me, Mrs Howard
I am very truly
Yours
M. S. P. S. P. S.

when you will pass
 a quiet Sunday and
 Enable me to repay
 a little of the kind
 Courtesy and hospitality
 which I experienced
 at your hands in Camp
 in the early part of the
 war - when visiting
 your Brigade as a
 member of the Allotment
 Commission.

I am living quite
 near the New Haven
 Station and have a
 great abundance of
 room and feel sure
 I can make your
 men comfortable there
 at an instant.

Mrs Dodge will be
 most happy to care for

New York Feb. 8th 1866

Dodge, Wm. C. (Jr.)

Invites Gen. Shaward
to make his (Mr. D's.)
house his home
during his stay in
N. Y.

Invitation accepted
from Baker.

Prossidun Oct 9/66

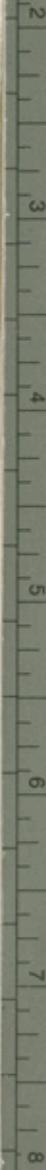
Genl Nevada -

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

Wasing had the pleasure of meeting you in Gettysburg, 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 exceedingly obliged if you would come to Prossidun and deliver a lecture for that purpose.

The Society

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would not only be gratified, but
the community also, as Genl. Howard
has a great many friends here who
would be delighted to hear him.

If it will be convenient for
you to come. Will you be good enough to
let us know at your earliest convenience,
also your terms.

Yours respectfully -
Mrs. S. M. Mayden

Genl. Howard.

Monistown Pa. Feb. 9th 1846

My dear Mr. B. N.

Write me soon
and to lecture -

Very truly

Recd Feb. 21st 1846 -

United States Sanitary Commission. 148

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 the Arm, in whose right hand, "cunning" is scripturally placed.

The writing was excellent, & the committee would

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I have ^{gladly} given a prize to
two hundred out of the
250 candidates!

So admirable too was
the substance of the
original compositions, that
the Committee recommended
Mr Bourne, who projected
the plan, to collect & publish
a volume of these contribu-
-tions in illustration of the
temper & ability of our
discharged invalids.

I was requested to ask
of you, as one 'touched with
a feeling of their infirmities'
to make some brief commu-
-nication, addressed perhaps
to the left-armed men -

which the Committee could
use in furthering the interest
& sale of the proposed
volume, - which will be
made to serve the cause
of Chautauk, to the Soldiers
I suppose.

If your duties will
permit you to do us
this service, it will be
highly appreciated by
my fellow Committee
men & by yours, ~~and~~
Respectfully & truly

Henry W. Bellows

59 E. 20th
New York

New York City
February 9th 1866

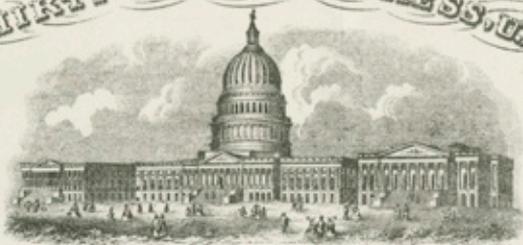
Henry W. Bellows Esq.
Pres^t Sanitary Comm^{tee}

Invites a Contribution
from Maj Gen Howard to
a volume of literary com-
positions written by dis-
charged soldiers who
have lost their right
arms in the Service.

To be answered by the 15th inst

Rec^d Bureau U.S.A. Feb 12th 1866

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS, 1866



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Washington, D.C. Feb 10, 1866

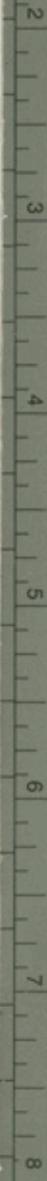
Will the officers of the Freedmen's
 Bureau, forward this ^{enclosed} letter to
 Genl Howard, so that it will
 reach him without some ~~of~~ delay,
 I oblige

Godlove Porter

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LIBRARY OF THE
MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

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Tallahassee Florida

Feb. 10th 1846

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard

Comr. B. R. F. & A. S.

General.

This letter will introduce
to you S. M. Hobbs Supt. Com.
Schools Florida - late Chaplain
8th U.S.C.T.

Supt. Hobbs goes north in
the interest of the schools for freed
people in this state under the
new law. He is a zealous man
& deeply interested in the great
work placed under his control
I hope you may be able to
assist him in forwarding his
work to a final success

Very Respy Yours
J. W. Watson
Col & A. S.

