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3295 2/8/1866

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Hon. L. Trumbull

OOH-3241

*Source:* Bowdoin

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

Ch. Judiciary Com.  
U.S.S.

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[139, 140]

War Department,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands.  
Washington, Feb 8 1866

Hon. L. Trumbull [Lyman Trumbull, Senator from Illinois, 1855-1872]  
Ch. Judiciary Com.  
U.S.S.  
Sir

Understanding that the House Amendment to the Freedmen's Bureau Bill by which the operation of the Bureau are confined to Notes where the Habeas Corpus was suspended Feb 1st inst. excludes the State of Maryland.

I beg leave to submit certain papers which have recently accumulated at this office, showing the need of the Bureau Agency in that State. Evils like those described in these papers have increased in number and enormity 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.

Lt. Clarke whose report of a special tour thro' three co's of Md. is enclosed, was sent from these Hd. Qrs. & is a candid and reliable officer. The papers accompanying this are only specimens of many which can be produced if necessary.

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

I am, Sir,  
Very Respectfully  
Yr. obdt. Servt.  
C.H. Howard  
Bvt. Brig. Gen.  
Asst. Comr. 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.H.H.

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

C.H. Howard  
Bvt. Brig. Gen.  
Letter to Sen. Trumbull  
8th

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3296 2/8/1866

*From:* Dr. Shakspeare  
Allen

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

OOH-3242

Centreville – Parish of  
St. Mary – Louisiana

Superintend. Freedmens  
Bureau – Abandoned Lands  
&c

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[143, 144, 145]

Centreville – Parish of St. Mary – Louisiana  
February 8th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Superintend. 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, 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, bring a physician with an extensive country practice. My wifes 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 <best>. 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 overseer 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 our 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 – 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, perhaps, is a fair rate for St. Mary, where very few will be able to make much for two years at least. Had the planters seed come, and were they, generally 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 Louisianian, 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 Aegean) task 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 on 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 our 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 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 regard 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 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, 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 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. Shakspeare Allen

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

Centreville, Parish of St. Mary's Louisiana

Feb. 8th 1866

Allen, Dr. Shakspeare

Gives his views concerning the condition and hopes & prospects of the freedmen.

Recd, Feb, 19th, 1866

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3297 2/8/1866

*From:* W.E. Dodge Jr

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

OOH-3243

234 Madison Ave  
New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[141]

234 Madison Ave  
New York Feby 8th 1866

My dear Sir

I hear with great pleasure that you have accepted the invitation of the Lecture Committee of our Young Men's Christian Assn to lecture in Saturday evening the 17 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 where you will pass a quiet Monday 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 you more comfortable than at an Hotel.

Mrs Dodge will be most happy to care for Mrs Howard and your little ones.

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

With great respect  
and the most Cordial  
Christian regards  
I am very truly yours  
W[illiam].E. Dodge Jr

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard

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

New York Feb. 8th 1866

Dodge, Wm. E. (Jr.)

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

Invitation accepted from Boston.

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3298 2/9/1866

*From:* Mrs. D. M. Snyder

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3244

Norristown Pa.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[146, 147]

Norristown Feb 9 / 66

Genl Howard

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

Having 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. We would be exceedingly obliged if you would come to Norristown and deliver a lecture for that purpose.

The Society 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. D. M. Snyder

Genl Howard

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

Norristown Pa. Feb 9th 66

Snyder Mrs. D.M.

Invites Gen Howard to lecture.

Recd Feb. 21st 1866

Any time

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3299 2/9/1866

*From:* Henry W. Bellows

*To:* Major General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3245

*Source:* Bowdoin

United States Sanitary  
Commission,  
Historical Bureau, 21  
West 12th Street,  
New York

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[148, 149]

[Letterhead]

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

The writing was excellent, & the committee would 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 recommends Mr Bourne, who projected the plan, to collect & publish a volume of these contributions in illustration of the temper & ability of our discharged invalids.

I was requested to ask of you, as one 'touched with a feeling of these infirmities' to make some brief communication, 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 Secure the cause of charity to the Soldier's, 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 very

Respectfully & truly  
Henry W. Bellows  
59 E. 20th  
New York

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

New York City  
February 9th / 66  
Henry W. Bellows L.D.  
Pres't Sanitary Comm'n

Invites a contribution from Maj Gen Howard to a volume of literary compositions written by discharged soldiers who have lost their right arms in the Service.

Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 12th / 66

[Written in pencil] To be ans'd by the Genl.

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3300 2/10/1866

*From:* Godlove Orth

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3246

*Source:* Bowdoin

NINTH CONGRESS,  
U.S.  
HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES.  
Washington, D.C.

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[150]

[Letterhead]

THIRTY-NINTH CONGRESS, U.S.  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.  
Washington, D.C.  
Feb 10, 1866

Will the officers of the Freedmens Bureau, forward the enclosed letter to Genl Howard, so that it sill reach him without unnecessary delay, & oblige

Godlove Orth [Congressman from Illinois, 1863-1874, 1879-1882]

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3301 2/10/1866 *From:* T.W. Osborn

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

OOH-3247

Tallahassee Florida

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[151]

Tallahassee Florida  
Feb. 10th 1866

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Comr. B.R.F&A.L.  
General,

This letter will introduce to you L.M. Hobbs Supt. Com. Schools Florida –late Chaplain 3d 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 Resply Yours  
T.W. Osborn  
Col & A.C.