

Memphis, Tenn. February 11th 1866.

General,

Allow me to beg pardon for the liberty I take in addressing myself to you while at the same time I come to you with a request for a favor.

Major Th. Gaines, Judge Advocate of the Dept. of Washington, procured for me a position in the Post-Office at this City in October last and I have up to this time performed my duties faithfully and to the entire satisfaction of the Postmaster; but, General, I want some mental work in a sphere, in which I can use and make useful my good education I received; I tried very hard to receive a position in a Bank or other commercial house, but always failed on account of my $4\frac{1}{2}$ years service in the U. S. Army and so cut off from this resources, I must look again to the Government, in whose defence my noble brother fell and for which I fought $4\frac{1}{2}$ years and left with 4 wounds.

As however I am without friends to help me to better my situation, to whom should I look up for that assistance as to you, General, who was so kind and generous to my brother; and I feel sure that for his memory, you will not forsaken his brother and give him the kind assistance.

Major Gaines will have the honor, General, to call on you and certify, as to my good behavior and ability, so as to assure, General, that in whatever capacity you may occupy

my services, that it will be my utmost endeavor to fulfill
the duties assigned to me with faithfulness and to the satis-
faction of all concerned.

Hoping that you may have the kindness
to consider my request and favor me with an answer, believe
me to be, General,

Most Respectfully

Your Devoted ^{and} True

John Desserer,

late captain 39th N. Y. Vol.

To

Major General O. O. Howard

Washington

D. C.

Portsmouth Ohio

Oct 12th /66

Maj Genl O O Howard

Dear Sir.

I hope you will not regard this application as an importunity. I am exceedingly sorry that I am compelled to make an application accompanied by statements of my private affairs.

All that I could save while in the Army as well as what I have earned since coming out has been expended for the family, and I now find myself without money, and with no visible prospect of getting any. By entering the Army of my Country I have lost my opportunities for obtaining either a trade or a profession; and as I have been very ill since I was discharged I am unfitted for manual labour.

My Father is getting old, and has nothing to depend upon for the support of a large family but his daily labour; and he does not have steady employment although he is a first class Machinist & Engineer.

my mother and eldest sister are invalids; and the remainder of the family are too young to aid the family, hence the great necessity that I should do all I can for them. I have been under medical treatment for about five months, from Typhoid pneumonia and its effects.

I have made the foregoing statements in confidence; and with the hope that in candidly stating my circumstances I might the more readily gain your assistance. Under no other circumstances could I have thus exposed our affairs. I am certain that if you cannot aid me you will at least respect my confidence, and allow this to be perused by no other person, unless it be absolutely necessary.

If you have no situation at your disposal, perhaps you could obtain something for me in one of the other Departments. I care not what it is. I do not expect either a very lucrative, or, responsible situation to begin with, all I ask is something as a start. let me have the opportunity, and I will take care of future chances.

I know that I have but few qualifications to recommend me; but think I could do anything that I should attempt, and if a close application to business, and an earnest desire to perform my duty, will aid me, I am certain of success.

Do not think from this that I rely altogether upon my own strength; for I have recently learned, that there is one mightier than man; and to whom we must look for aid in all our undertakings.

I would not wish to be so far from home as Washington could I get any employment here; but I am poor and have no friends among the rich and influential Citizens of this place.

I hope General that you will give this application your attention, and as a special favour give a reply at the earliest convenient date.

Hoping that my conduct while serving you as Caterer may recommend me for honesty and faithfulness in the position I now solicit,

Very 342 I have the honor to be

Portsmouth Ohio Yours Most Respectfully

Edwin S. Newton

Portsmouth Ohio
February 12th 1866

Edwin. J. Newton

Writes Confidentially Ex.
- posing family matters,
and asks General Howard
to assist him by giving
him a position in the Ar.
- rears. -

Ans'd Feb 23rd 1866

Rec'd General A. S. Feb 16th 1866

Chicago Feb. 12th /66
Office, N. Comm. 90, Wash. St.

Gen. Howard

Dear Sir

Last Fall this Branch of the Union Commission took up the work of providing for the destitute Loyal Families as best we could. The West-side of the Mississippi. We found by investigation the greatest suffering prevailing in the Western part of Arkansas and are laboring for that almost exclusively. It is a little less than four months since we took hold of the matter, already supplies of clothing have been shipped to the amount of \$10,000.00, and several Hundred Bus. of Corn, Wheat, &c. &c. There is in process of being raised

128

2
3
4
5
6
7
8

several Thousand Bus. of corn, to ship to that State. I cannot give you a definite report at this stage of affairs, but when our Com^{rs} winds up her work, which we expect to do in May, then I will report as fully as possible.

We see by the Papers, the Freedmens Bureau is to be continued we hope also that Gen. Howard is to be continued as Head of that Bureau. May the Lord give you with his strength and give you wisdom for every emergency and sustain you under all your responsibilities, is our prayer.

If you have any suggestions in reference to the work of the N. W. F. Union Com^{rs} we shall be very happy to hear them.

Yours Respectfully,
Mrs, H. W. Cobb Secy

Chicago Ill
February 13. 1855

Mrs H. W. Cobb

Self WWB Union Comtee

Give General Hornum
an account of the doings
of the Commission -

Recd. Hornum & I take

Mother - I was very glad to hear from
Rowland that he is, I believe with you.
I wish we were settled in the new house.
Aunt Martha writes that Sizzie has visit-
ed her intention of visiting Washington.
So you went to Bangor - I would like
to have been one of the party - It's only
said a word - I did not gather
whether you ^{met} ~~had~~ my friend Henry there con-
sidered Mrs. Fisher or not - I have not
lighted me - Not if only a few words - for Grace's
as well as my sister - Henry is hearty - Affectionately

Yours

L. M. Howard

P.S. Saw Martha
& the children & her
first names & her
L.M.H.

War Department,
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

Washington, Feb 12 1866.
10 P.M.

Dear Sister Sizzie

Gracie Kind

my good night" a little while ago
& you left alone - Mr. Al-
mon leaves for New York early
in the morning & so has
retired early - We listened
to the great oration today
at the Capitol in honor
of Pres Lincoln - I had
a seat on the floor in place
of this - Thousands could
not get tickets who desired
them - Only five being given
out by each Representative.

I was much pleased to hear from the body - letter
written at Leicester - As Rev. Follen has
in a few days - Rev. Henry W. Briggs, your know,
are gone & Mr. Almond goes tomorrow - I am
left entirely alone & there is no need of
removal - so with the permission of the latter
I paid her off tonight & gave her a letter to
help her get a new place - I believe will
address this to Leeds tho' I do not yet
had gone to Augustus - leaving the children
at Leeds. They will be great comfort to

Last night was the last
grand jubilee of the Chris-
tian Commission - also in
the Representative Hall -
Such a packed house I
never saw. I stood up for
over three hours - but
the exercises were intensely
interesting & I felt fully
repaid - The singing by
Mr. Phillips of Cincinnati
& by the Hutchinsons was
very fine & elicited much
applause - Mr. Ames gave
me a ticket for today (Protestant)
which I gave to Mr. Alvord -
I did not need it.

I had a ticket from Rev. H.
Stout last night - he was
much disappointed that he
could not be present.

Henry, Illinois, February 13, 1866.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard,

Dear Sir,

Under the new Bill
Can you make me Commissioner of some State
or help me to some position in your Bureau I would
like. You told me last Summer there was nothing
under the rank or grade of Com. of a State that would
pay and that only army officers could serve there as
things then were. I don't want to bore you
Cham with applications for I know you must
be bored enough without such, but if you can
help me to the Commissionership of a State you try
me, thank you, and see if I won't make a good one?

Yours Truly,
~~and ever~~
P. S. Freley.

Henry Illinois
February 13, 1866

C. J. Lerley

Desires an appointment
as Asst. Commr. of some
State.

Get before Special.

Des. & Comm. R. & A. L. Feb 16, 1866

New Berne N. C.

Feb. 13th 1866.

Major Gen^l O. O. Howard.

Com^d Bur. Mps Fr. & A. S.

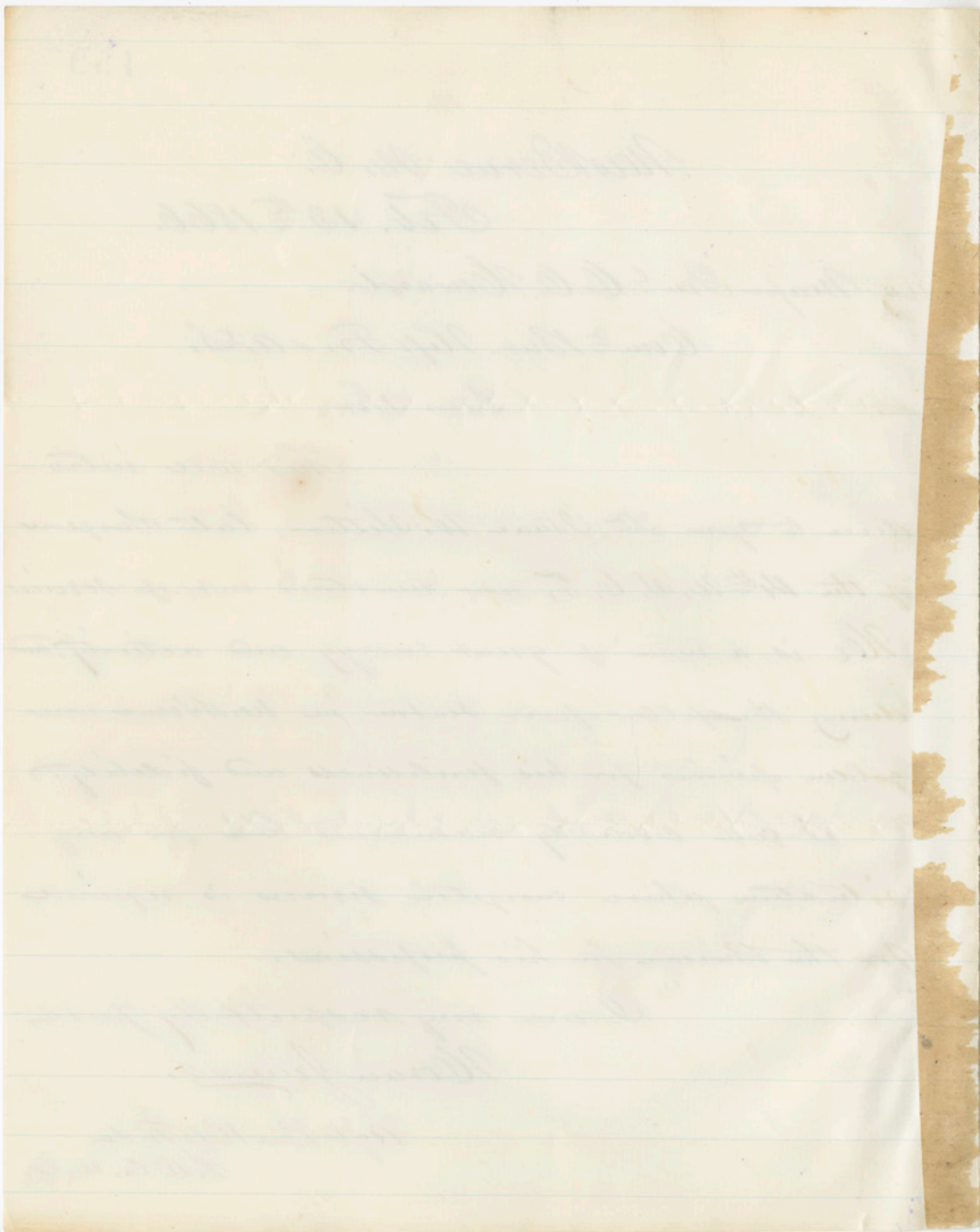
Dear Sir,

This will introduce to you Dr. Isaac W. Sitter, late Surgeon of the 14th U. S. C. T., now mustered out of service. He is a man of great energy and activity, and during the yellow-fever season in New Berne won golden opinions for his fearlessness and fidelity.

I can cordially recommend him for any situation where energetic service is required for the Bureau in his profession.

I am very respectfully yours,
Horace James.

Agt Bur Mps Fr & A.
Pitt Co. N. C.



Executive Officers.
James Lenox, President.
Joseph Holdich, D.D., Cor. Sec.
Wm. J. R. Taylor, " " "
William Whitlock, Jr., Treas.
Henry Fisher, Asst. Treas.
Caleb T. Rowe, General Ag't.

160
American Bible Society.

Bible House, Astor Place,
New York, *Feb 13 1866.*

Major General O. O. Howard

My dear Sir

In behalf of our Jubilee Committee I have the pleasure of inviting you to deliver one of the addresses at the approaching Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the American Bible Society, which is to be held in this City in the Academy of Music on the Second Thursday of May (10th).

The arrangements made for our Jubilee Celebration will make it an occasion of unusual interest. The great distribution of the Holy Scriptures which we made in the Army during the war, through the Christian Commission & other channels of supply - and the efforts which we are now making for the Freedmen in the

180
American Bible Society

Executive Officers
James L. Smith, President
Joseph H. Smith, 1st Vice-President
Wm. B. Taylor, 2nd Vice-President
William W. Phelps, Secretary
George F. Smith, Treasurer
John T. Smith, General Agent

1811
1812
1813
1814

Wm. B. Taylor

The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions of the American Bible Society, for the year 1814. The names are given in the order in which they were appointed, and are taken from the original list, as published in the American Bible Society's Report for the year 1814.

The names of the persons who have been appointed to the various positions of the American Bible Society, for the year 1814, are as follows:

James L. Smith, President
Joseph H. Smith, 1st Vice-President
Wm. B. Taylor, 2nd Vice-President
William W. Phelps, Secretary
George F. Smith, Treasurer
John T. Smith, General Agent

South, together with your own representative relation to these great interests, induce us to press the acceptance of this invitation upon you.

Permit me to add my own personal urgency to that of the Committee, that you will consent to aid us in these jubilee exercises, as the representative of our noble Army & of the four millions of Freed people whom the Government has committed to your official care. I also as a witness for the Bible work of that noble organization the Christian Commission - which has just closed its work & dissolved its former existence as a body, in the great meeting held in Washington in the Hall of the House of Representatives on last Sabbath Evening.

Hoping for an early affirmative reply and with great regard, I am, General,

Yours very sincerely
William L. R. Taylor
Gen. Sec. A. B. S.

101
New York City
Feb 13th 1866

Wm J. R. Taylor

Invites Maj Gen Grant
to deliver one of the
addresses at the Semi
Centennial Anniversary
of the American Abolition
Society, at the Academy
of Music on the 2nd
Thursday in May

Recd & Received O. S. H. Feb 14th 1866