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3303 2/11/1866 *From:* John Dessauer

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3248

Memphis, Tenn.

Washington  
D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[155]

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 of other commercial house, but always failed on account of my 4 ½ 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 ½ 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 satisfaction 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 Dessauer  
late Captain 39th N.Y. Vols.

To  
Major General O.O. Howard  
Washington  
D.C.

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3304 2/12/1866     *From:* Edwin T. Newton

*To:* Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-3249

Box 342  
Portsmouth  
Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152, 153]

Portsmouth Ohio  
Feb 12th /66

Maj Genl OO Howard  
Dear Sir,

I hope you will 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 visable 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 unfited for manuel 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 stateing 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 quallifications to reccommend 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 wold 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.

I have the honor to be  
Yours Most Respectfully  
Edwin T. Newton

Box 342  
Portsmouth  
Ohio

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

Portsmouth Ohio

February 12th /66

Edwin T. Newton

Writes confidentially exposing family matters, and asks General Howard to assist him by giving him a position in the Bureau.

Rec'd Bureau RF and AL. Feb 16th /66

Ans'd Feb 23d /66

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3305 2/12/1866

*From:* Mrs. H.W. Cobb

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3250

Office, Union Com'n.  
90 Wash. St.  
Chicago

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156, 157]

Chicago Feb. 12th / 66  
Office, U. Com'n. 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 Miss. River. 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, rye &c. There is in process of being raised several Thousand Bus. of corn, to ship to that State. I cannot give you a deffinite report at this stage of affairs, but when our Com'r 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 gird 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.B. Union Com'n we shall be very happy to hear them.

Yours Respectfully  
Mrs. H.W. Cobb Sec'y

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

Chicago Ill  
February 12th / 66  
Mrs H.W. Cobb  
Sec'y NWB Union Com'n  
Gives General Howard an account of the doings of the Commission.  
Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 16th / 66

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3306 2/12/1866    *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dear Sister Lizzie  
[Howard]

OOH-3251

*Source:* Bowdoin

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

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[633]

[Letterhead]

War Department,  
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Washington  
Feb 12 1866 10 P.M.

Dear Sister Lizzie

Gracie kissed me "good night" a little while ago & I am left alone. Mr Alvord 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't Lincoln. I had a seat on the floor in place of Otis. Thousands could not get tickets who desired them – only five being given out by each Representative.

Last night was the last grand jubilee of the Christian 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 (oration) which I gave to Mr Alvord as I did not need it.

I had a ticket from Gen. H. & went last night. He was much disappointed that he could not be present. I was much pleased to hear from Otis today - letter written at Lewiston. As Gen. Fullerton goes in a few day – Gen Strong & Harry, you know, are gone & Mr. Alvord goes tomorrow. I am left entirely alone & there is no need of Hannah. So with the permission of Otis' letter I paid her off tonight & gave her a letter to help her get a new place.

I believe I will address this to Leeds tho' Otis wrote you had gone to Augusta – leaving the children at Leeds. They will be a great comfort to Mother. I was very glad to hear from Rowland that she is to return with you. I wish we were settled in the new home. Aunt Martha writes that Lizzie has relinquished her intention of visiting Washington.

So you went to Bangor. I would like to have been one of the party. Otis only said a word. I did not gather whether you met my friend & long time correspondent Miss Foster or not. Please enlighten me. Write if only a few words – for Grace's as well as my sake. Chancy is hearty.

Affectionately yours  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Love to Mother & the children & kindest messages to "Wash".  
C.H.H.

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3307 2/13/1866 *From:* P.S. Perley

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

OOH-3252

Henry, Illinois

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

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 dont want bore you chum 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, wont you, and see if I wont make a good one?

Yours Truly,  
and ever  
P.S. Perley

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

Henry Illinois

February 13th /66

P.S. Perley

Desires an appointment as Asst. Comm'r of some State.

Rec'd Bureau RF and AL Feb 16th / 66

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3308 2/13/1866     *From:* Horace James

*To:* Major Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3253

New Berne N.C.

Com'r Bur. Refs. Fr. & A.L.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

New Berne N.C.  
Feb. 13th 1866

Major Genl O.O. Howard  
Com'r Bur. Refs. Fr. & A.L.  
Dear Sir,

This will introduce to you Dr Isaac W. Sittler, 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.  
Ag't Bur Res Fr &c  
Pitt Co. N.C.

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3309 2/13/1866

*From:* William J.R. Taylor

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3254

*Source:* Bowdoin

American Bible Society.  
Bible House, Astor  
Place,  
New York

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[160, 161]

[Letterhead]

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 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 & also as a witness for the Bible work of that noble organization the Christian Commission – which has just closed its work & dissolved its formal 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 J.R. Taylor  
Cor. Sec. A.B.S.

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

New York City  
Feb 13th / 66  
Wm J.R. Taylor

Invites Maj Gen Howard to deliver one of the addresses at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the American Bible Society, at the Academy of Music on the 2nd Thursday in May.  
Rec'd Bureau RF&AL Feb 14, /66