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3409 3/17/1866     *From:* Thurlow Weed

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3354

New York

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[150]

New York, March 17, '66

Dear General,

My Friend, Mr Richard B. Hill, of Iowa, goes forth with a large <Posse> of Emigrant Laborers, for whom he desires such facilities as consists with the duties of your Department.

May I ask of you such a Letter to you Chief of Bureau in New Orleans as will enable Mr Hill to avail himself of the <attentions> of that Office when his Laborers arrive there.

The more men like Mr Hill plant themselves upon Southern Soil the better for the Country in all respects.

Truly Yours  
Thurlow Weed

Maj Gen Howard  
U.S. Army

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

New York Mar 17./66

Weed, Thurlow

Introducing R.B. Hill

Recd Mar 19th 1866

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3410 3/17/1866

*From:* J.B. Grinnell

*To:* Dear Genl [OO] Howard

M.C.

OOH-3355

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[152]

Washington D.C. March 17/66

Dear Genl Howard

My esteemed friend Rich'd B Hill Esq of Davenport Iowa desires to see you. But for an engagement on Monday I should call with him.

I trust you will be pleased to grant his request, <agreeing> with Mr Thurlow Weed.

Mr Hill controls large interest south and can aid us in many ways.

With high regard

Your Obt Servt & friend

J.B. Grinnell [Josiah Bushnell Grinnell]

M.C. [U.S. Representative from Iowa 1863-1866]

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

Washington Mar 17 / 66

Grinnell, J.B.

Introducing Rich'd B. Hill.

Recd Mar 19th 1866

3411 3/17/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl  
Asst. Comm'r  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
States of Kentucky and  
Tennessee  
Assistant  
Commissioner's Office,  
Louisville Ky

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3356

*Source:* Bowdoin

Com'r &c Washington D.C.

[153]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
States of Kentucky and Tennessee  
Assistant Commissioner's Office,  
<Nashville, Tenn.[Crossed Out]>  
Louisville Ky Mar 17th 1866

My Dear General

I am in receipt of your telegram of the 16th inst. And wait receipt of your letter as directed (except that I will run over to St Louis and spend Sunday with my family)

I was very desirous that our good President should hear from my own mouth just how necessary it is, that he speak a good loud distinct word in behalf of our Bureau - for we are almost prostrate under the interpretation the masses give to his veto message, and utterances to the public. It is believed that the Bureau is now continued against the Presidents wishes. The Kentucky press without an exception (there may be one) are daily publishing the most infamous lies about our sub-ordinates & the Bureau generally. I clip from this morning's paper a Washington letter in which the readers of the Courier are educated to believe that the President & your are at loggerheads.

In the meantime I am doing the best I can - and have faith that I am getting the upper hand of the combined influences at work against us.

Very Respectfully  
Your Obt Servant  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl  
Asst. Comm'r  
Maj Genl Howard  
Com'r &c Washington D.C.

[Attached Clipping]

From Washington  
The Radical Party and its Unhappy Condition - Fred. Douglass as a Leader - His abuse of the President - The President must be Sustained - County Meetings - A Suggestion - Kentucky Affairs - An Incident, &c., &c.  
(Correspondence of the Louisville Courier.)

Washington, D.C., March 12, 1866.

Editors Louisville Courier: "To be or not to be, that is the question" now with the Radical party. And it is one which they find it very difficult indeed to answer - in fact it seems unanswerable. How cruel it was of President Johnson, just at the point when the very acme of success was being reached, to dash the golden chalice of triumph from their lips. And how craven and cowardly was it in the "black sheep" to cringe before executive

power and patronage, and "bow the suppliant hinges of the knee, that thrift might follow fawning."

By the defection of the President and the cowardice of Senators who quailed before his wand, the whole fruits of the war are blasted. The soldiers, having performed their part of the work with complete success, have been mustered out, and Congress was mustered in, to complete and effectuate the victory. Instead of doing so, however, they are permitting rebellion at last to triumph; are about offering a premium for treason, making loyalty odious, and writing "failure," as an epitaph upon the tomb of every hero who gave up his life, as he vainly supposed, to secure freedom to every man, who imagined that he was dealing with his life-blood the truths of the Declaration of Independence, that "all men are created equal."

Such are the opinions of Fred Douglass, Charles Sumner, Stevens, Kelly, Yates, Pomeroy, Wade, Wilson, and the smaller fry of the "loyalty" in this city and throughout the North.

They came up to the meeting of the present Congress flushed with the confidence that the little knot of Democrats in that body could only serve as objects of their satire and denunciation; and gloated over the prospect of tantalizing them by all manner of contrivances. That they were omnipotent they had not the slightest doubt. That there should not be left a vestige of the Government of the fathers save the name, and perhaps not that, they were resolved.

The treasonable song that "this is the white man's Government," they intended should be sung no more. They intended to make it honorable to be a negro. (Whether it was in anticipation of the result that the ladies adopted the style of criping and frizzing their hair, I know not; but I should think so, for certainly they make themselves as nearly like the negro as crisps and frizzies can approach.) All these glorious anticipations have been knocked into "pi" by the "Tylerized" Executive. The feelings of the party over this action of the President are fittingly, forcibly, and correctly expressed by Fred. Douglass, who is the great leader and acknowledged exponent of the doctrines of the party. In his lecture at the City Assembly Rooms in this city on Saturday night, on "The Issue of the Day," he spoke of the President as follows: "But what shall be said of Andrew Johnson" Perhaps it would be improper to speak evil of dignitaries; perhaps it would be better to leave Mr. Johnson to speak for himself, as being the most damaging thing he can do for himself." "But what," he asked, "shall be said of him who told us that traitors must take a back seat in the work of restoration, if he now invests, these same traitors with the supreme control of the States in which they live? What shall be said of him who promised to be the Moses of the colored race, if he becomes their Pharaoh instead? Why, this must be said of him - that he had better 'never have been born.' "

This is a simple reflex of the feelings of the Radical party concerning Mr. Johnson. Most devoutly do they wish that he had never been born. This harangue of that Massachusetts mulatto was not delivered to a crowd of woolly headed "freedmen," but to an immense assembly of appreciative and applauding white men, including numerous members of both houses of the Congress of the United States, one of whom (Kelly, of Pa.), resided over the meeting.

It is impossible for the people, the loyal people, who appreciate the liberties of the people as guaranteed in the Constitution of the United States, to overestimate the value to the country, of the determination of the President to throw himself into the breach, and prevent the utter subversion of the Government. In the language of Gov. Saulsbury, in a letter to a mass meeting recently held in Wilmington, "He ought to be, and I have no doubt will be, sustained by the honest masses of the people everywhere, in his efforts to restore the Union, be securing to the States and the people the rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution. It is fit and proper in this hour of our country's peril, that the people throughout the length and breadth of the whole land should meet in popular assemblage, and hold up the hands of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, by assurances of their support in all of his constitutional efforts to sustain popular government, secure the permanency of our free institutions, re-establish justice and tranquility, and perpetuate the blessings of civil liberty and personal security to the citizen.

I am gratified to see that all over the State of Kentucky meetings are being held to indorse the course of the President, and give assurance of an earnest and cordial support of his administration, if carried out upon the principles lately enunciated by him, and trust that it will be kept up until every county in the State shall have so spoken. I know that they are highly appreciated by the President, and would suggest that the proceedings be not simply published in the newspapers, but that in every instance copies be forwarded either to him direct, or to one of the members of Congress, with directions to lay them before him.

I am not insensible to the fact that the people of Kentucky feel, deeply and justly, that they have not been treated by the authorities of the Government with that consideration which is due them. That the continued suspension of the habeas corpus, the erection of the Freedmen's Bureau, and the toleration of the numerous outrages upon them by the military since the close of the war, are grievances which it is impossible but that they

should reel, pungently, and which it would be difficult indeed to form apologies for. I have this and only this to say in extenuation of the President touching the treatment of Kentucky - that the masses of the people, the Conservative men of the State, have held themselves aloof from the President, have not troubled him with representations of the real state of affairs in the State; while a few bastard sons of the Commonwealth, so well known that it is unnecessary to name them, have been constantly distilling into the Executive ear the rankest slanders and vilifications of the people of the State. Let the people speak out now, undeceive the President and ask justice at his hands. He will not, cannot long withhold it.

I have learned an incident which tends to illustrate the hollowness of the pretensions of sympathy and regard which the loyalty of the country professed for the negro. It is said that a short time since Major General Howard, the chief of the bureau and guardian of the negroes, discovered that a good thing could be made by shipping from here to the heart of Georgia, negro laborers, and that he called on the President for his sanction to the plan and an order for transportation, at the expense of the Government, for the first Installment of some three hundred. The President is said to have raised his hands in mock horror, and exclaimed, substantially: "What! You, the guardian and protector of the race, selected on account of your devotion to their interest and advocacy of their rights. Can it be that you have consented to transfer from this Eden - where all the fruits of the garden are free to them, save of the fruit of one tree, (suffrage,) which is about to be conferred by Congress - hundreds of these freedmen to the very center of the land of Nod, where the simple fact of the color of their skin stamps them with scarcely less odium than the mark upon the brow of Cain!! Impossible!" Bureau wilted.

OCCASIONAL (not "D.D")

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3412 3/19/1866 *From:* Oakes Ames

*To:* Genl O O Howard

OOH-3357

Washington

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[115]

Washington March 19th 1866

Genl O O Howard

Dear Sir

Mr. Richard B Hill an old acquaintance of mine, is interested in some large plantations in Louisiana, & is sending a large number of Germans there from N York to cultivate them.

If you through your agents can aid him by information or otherwise you will confer a favour on him & oblige  
Yours Truly

Oakes Ames [U.S. Representative from Massachusetts, 1863-1872]

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3413 3/19/1866

*From:* Thomas J. Wilson

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

OOH-3358

Senate Chamber  
State of Iowa  
Des Moines

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[154]

[Letterhead]

Senate Chamber  
State of Iowa  
Des Moines,  
March 19 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

Enclose you will find photographs of your old friend & classmate.

Please send my yours and oblige.

Most Respt yours  
Thomas J. Wilson [Bowdoin College, Class of 1848]  
Member House of Representatives  
Des Moines  
Iowa

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3414 3/19/1866    *From:* Fannie Steele

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

OOH-3359

Washington  
174 G Street

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[155]

Washington March 19<sup>th</sup>66  
174 G Street

General:

Your note of the 15th Inst was received.

In reply I will state, that, it will be much to my disadvantage, to give up possession of the house in April, on the terms you suggest. I will therefor retain the premises, 'til the expiration of my lease.

Very Respectfully  
Fannie Steele

Maj. Gen'l O.O. Howard



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3415 3/19/1866     *From:* Joseph Tracy

*To:* Hon. H. Maynard

OOH-3360

Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[156]

Boston, March 19, 1866

Hon. H. Maynard [See Note]

I write again just now, because I am again unable to hold still.

Gen. Howard has always been one of my favorite Generals, on several accounts, and I have hoped that his "Bureau", so far as he should be able to direct its action, would do good, and not evil. But I hear concerning his subordinates, that the "Boston sheet called "The Right Way," is distributed broadcast by them in their official capacity all over the South."

That paper is the most able, persistent and thorough-going advocate that I have seen of the doctrine of Senator Sumner on "State Suicide". In its first number, I think, it labored to prove that certain States did actually take themselves out of the Union by Acts of Secession. <True> it admitted, they had no moral right to do it; but they had the power, and they did it. It wholly overlooked the principle, that a legal act cannot be performed, so as to have legal validity, by those who have no legal power to perform it.

On this assumption, it has opposed the President's policy with all its force of logic and of feeling, - which is not small. It handles his veto message, his 22 Feb. speech, and all that comes from him, without mercy. It generally avoids indecorous language, but does all it can to make his views and his policy odious. If the blacks could be made to read it and adopt its views, it would destroy their confidence in the President entirely and make them his bitter opponents, suspicious of everything which they suppose him to favor.

I cannot suppose that Gen. Howard aims at any such result. Even if he dissents from some of the President's views, I cannot assume that he would take such measures to oppose them. I must suppose, therefore, that he does not know what his subordinates are doing, or that he has not power to control them, or remove them at his pleasure. Perhaps the this has not been going on long enough to give him time to understand it and act upon it. But it seems to me plain that he ought to know it, and to require his subordinates if they must circulate that paper, to do it their private capacity, and on their own personal responsibility. It is not proper that the subordinates of the Bureau, without the knowledge of its head, should place the Bureau itself, in all its branches, head and members, in opposition to the President, without the knowledge of its head.

And its seems to me evidently proper, that the President should know it. Even if the best thing he can do is to bear it silently he should be aware of the kind of efforts that are made to thwart his policy, and should know who are making them, that he may not, for want of that knowledge, put himself needlessly in their power.

This State of affairs ought not to surprise us. Northern disunionists, as the President calls them, would naturally crowd themselves into the employment of the Bureau as early and as sily as possible. It is their nature ,and they hold their allegiance to Sumner's notions about the Negro as paramount to all their other obligations. I have some reason to think that a thorough-going one might be found in North Carolina as a Boston man.

Where I got my information, is no matter. I did not receive it from the Colonization office at Washington; nor do I know that our folks there know every thing about it; and if they do, they will not wish to mix themselves up with political parties. Yet, if Gen. Howard wants help in ferreting out the fats, and they can be persuaded to help him, I do not know where he could find better assistants.

If any good use can be made of these suggestions, you will know what to do with them.

We are all well. No news. Yours, as ever,  
Joseph Tracy

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

<Respectfully forward [CHECK ORIGINAL, under tape]> Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard with the remark that the writer is a clergyman of pious & standing & his statements of facts are entitle to the highest credit.

Horace Maynard  
Washington,  
March 20, 1866

[Written in a third hand on the last page.]

Boston Mass.

March 19, 1866

Tracy, Rev. Joseph

In relation to the circulation of the Boston paper among the blacks, called "The Right Way."

Referred by Hon. H. Maynard

B.R.F. & AL.

Recd Mar 22 1866

[Note: Horace Maynard was a U.S. Representative from Tennessee, from 1857-1862 and 1865-1874.]

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3416 3/19/1866

*From:* Nelson A. Miles  
Major Gen U.S.A.  
Hd. Qrs. Military District  
of  
Fortress Munroe Va

*To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3361

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158]

Hd. Qrs. Military District of  
Fortress Munroe Va  
March 19 1866

General,

I understand that a paper which I forwarded to Department Hd. Qrs. in regards to Culom Pepper has been referred to you and I hope it will receive prompt action for I consider him an Imposter and his scheme a perfect swindle. He opposes every movement for the benefit of the Negros and is a great hindrance to the successful operations of the Freedmans Bureau in this vicinity.

There are thousands of able bodied men about here who will neither go out into the country and look for work or go to Florida because Pepper tells them they will have staid here for nothing and that it belongs to them.

Dr Vogell is with me yet and is very anxious to to obtain a position in your Bureau or under the State Department. It would have been very agreeable to him & myself if he could have had the position which Gen'l Armstrong has, but I trust you will not forget to give him a helping hand the first opportunity as he is a true & reliable friend.

I have the honor to remain  
With the highest respect  
Your obt sevt  
Nelson A. Miles  
Major Gen U.S.A.

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3417 3/19/1866 *From:* Edwin Greble

*To:* My dear General [OO]  
Howard

OOH-3362

Philadelphia

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[159]

Philadelphia March 19, 1866

My dear General Howard

This will be handed you by Benson J. Lossing Esq. the Historian, one of my most valued and intimate friends. I am happy to make him acquainted with you personally. You know each other by reputation.

Mr Lossing is writing a history of the rebellion and will make an extended travel through the South and West, to collect material for his work, the first volume of which is now complete. I was to have accompanied Mr Lossing, but circumstances have prevented me. Whatever aid I should have asked of you for myself, if rendered to my friend Lossing, will be considered as conferred on me.

Very Sincerely Your Friend  
Edwin Greble

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3418 3/20/1866

*From:* Wm. H. Sinclair

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3363

*Source:* Bowdoin

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas  
Galveston

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[160, 161]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters,  
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
State of Texas  
Galveston,  
March 20th, 1866

Major Genl Howard

Com'r

Dear General:

We have received your circular announcing the death of our friend Stinson and I write you to express to you the sorrow I feel for you in the loss of one so long a member of your military family and so dear to you. I had hoped that when he recovered from the wound received at New Hope and passed safely through the Atlanta Campaign and to the end of the war that he might live on for years in his life of piety and goodness but it seems the Almighty ordained otherwise and the wounds from which I supposed he had fully recovered finally caused his death.

I have been on duty 2 weeks as A.A.G. of the Bureau for this State.

The old 4th Corps is all out of Service, but 2 Regiments –it only lives now in the record it has made for itself. (over)

General Gregory I like very much. Rebels are not his friends but I do not think any man can say that he ever done them injustice. The trouble is General these people have not yet brought their ideas up to the standard which will allow them to see that a negro has rights or that justice is to be done him.

We will work it out though all over the land. It only requires time and perseverance. Excuse me General for speaking of things other than I originally intended when I commenced writing.

Mrs. Sinclair sends regards and express sympathy for the loss of our friend.

Please remember me kindly to your Brother Chas., to Fullerton and any others whom I may know of your military family.

I remain Genl,  
Your Obt. Servt,  
Wm. H. Sinclair  
A.A.Genl.

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

Galveston Texas  
March 20, 1866  
Sinclair, W.H., A.A.G.  
Friendly letter  
Recd April 2nd 1866

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3419 3/20/1866

*From:* Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl  
Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
States of Kentucky and  
Tennessee.  
Assistant  
Commissioner's Office  
Louisville Ky

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

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[162, 163]

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
States of Kentucky and Tennessee.  
Assistant Commissioner's Office  
Louisville Ky March 20th 1866

General

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your valued communication of 10th inst. and to thank you for the leave of absence granted by telegraph.

I have some very important business affairs that demand my immediate attention in New York city where my brother now waits my arrival. I propose leaving here for New York to night & hope to reach there thursday Evening and remain there friday and Saturday. A telegram would find me at Metropolitan Hotel should you desire to communicate with me in New York. I hope not to be gone from here more than one week. I have written Col Woodhull recommending that he delay at Nashville until my return when I can post him thoroughly touching Kentucky affairs and send my Asst Adjt Genl with him.

I am having a session with the civil authorities in Louisville to day – and trust that good will come out of it. One word from the President would do us much good, but I fear he will not speak it. If he does not we must push to the front without him – God and the Country will stand by us.

Generals Thomas and Palmer are in the most perfect accord with myself – and afford me most cheerfully any aid within their power to grant. It is very fortunate that two such spirits have authority over this unhappy hunting ground just now.

Mr Johnson has caused a good deal of bad blood to boil over of late. I send you herein the leading <Anti> paper (Commercial) in which is published a letter from their Texas correspondent. It is evidently written and published with the idea that the President desires the Bureau to be whacked about in this rough manner. We undoubtedly have some bad men among our subordinates. It would be strange were it otherwise – but how shamefully this correspondent does lie. This article will be copied in nearly all the Southern papers with an immense flourish. Let the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing if they want to.

I spent Sunday with my little family who are now quite well. The “death in my family” noticed in the press telegrams not long since was of my brothers wife.

With sincere regard  
Yours Truly  
Clinton B. Fisk  
Bt Maj Genl

Maj Genl Howard  
Commissioner &c.

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

Louisville Mar 20 1866  
Fisk, Clinton B.  
Brev. Maj. Genl.  
Friendly letter  
Recd Mar 24 1866

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3420 3/20/1866

*From:* J.W. Sprague  
Brig Genl

*To:* Maj Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3365

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of  
Missouri and Arkansas,  
Little Rock, Ark.

Commissioner  
Washington D.C.

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[164]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
For the States of Missouri and Arkansas,  
Little Rock, Ark.,  
March 20, 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard  
Commissioner  
Washington D.C.  
General

Your very kind note of the 8th inst is received. I beg leave to return my sincere and grateful thanks for your expressions of confidence in me – and shall try to deserve your confidence to the end. I shall carefully preserve your note as the most precious memento I have received during my time of service.

Very Respy your Obt Svt  
J.W. Sprague  
Brig Genl



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3421 3/20/1866 *From:* FW Gilbreth

*To:* Dear General [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3366

Augusta, Maine

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[167, 168]

Augusta, Maine  
March 20. 1866

Dear General.

I left Tallahassee on Monday, 12th inst. and reached home on the 19th with the remains.

I telegraphed you from New York last Saturday.

The funeral took place at 10 am this morning from his mothers residence, Rev Mr McKenzie officiating.

The body was deposited in a tomb at Hallowell.

At Fathers request I would ask if I might not be allowed to delay reporting for ten days or two weeks.

Of course if there is business to attend to I will return at once. I saw Gen Strong in Savannah.

Very Respy  
Your Obt Servant  
FW Gilbreth

P.S. Mother & Father desire to be remembered to Mrs Howard and yourself.

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

Augusta, Me Mar. 20, 1866

Gilbreth, Fred. W.

Writes concerning Harry's funeral

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&AL WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 23 1866

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3422 3/20/1866

*From:* Maxwood Snell  
A.A.G.

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3367

Cincinnati Ohio

Com'r F.B.  
War Dept

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[169]

Cincinnati Ohio  
Tuesday March 20th 66

My Dear General

Will you please send me a copy of the "Bill of Rights" as it finally passed Congress, and Copies of Genl Swayne's Bill, or any other Bureau Bill that is likely to become a law.

Reached this city this morning, leave on afternoon boat for Louisville.

Very Respy & Tru Yours  
Maxwood Snell  
A.A.G.

Maj Genl Howard  
Com'r F.B.  
War Dept

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&AL WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 22 1866

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3423 3/20/1866

*From:* Jos. Segar

*To:* Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3368

Ebbitt House [Perhaps  
Washington, D.C.]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[170]

Ebbitt House [Perhaps Washington, D.C.], Mar 20 '66

Gen. Howard,  
My Dear Sir,

The enclosed have been transmitted to me from home, and I deem it proper to turn them over to you, as the Head of the Freedmen's Bureau.

And it is my duty to apprise you, further, that Mr. Pepper is in every portion of the State, a most mischievous man. I am informed he is a man of very bad Character, and I learn from undoubted authority that he is under indictment in one of the Courts of Alexandria. If there is any authority in the Freedmen's Bureau to keep him out of mischief, it ought to be done.

And there can be no more conclusive argument in favor of immigration or colonization than the fact that whenever there is a large aggregation of freedmen bad white men follow in the wake to make money out of blacks, and to <tender> the latter discontented <> their condition.

With great Respect  
Yr Friend & Servant  
Jos. Segar

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

Ebbitt House  
Mar 20th 1866  
Segar, Jos.  
U.S.S.

Encloses reports of the Emmigration meeting at Hampton. Believes Mr. Pepper to be a mischievous unprincipled man.

[Transcriptions of 3 newspaper attachments.]

Immigration to Florida – Speeches of J.W. Dungy, a Freedman; Maj. Gen. Miles, Gen. Asrmstrong, Col. Curry, Dr. Vogel, Calvin Pepper – Freedman Bayne on the Evil of the Freedmen's Bureau – Failure of the Immigration Scheme to Florida, &c.

(Special Correspondence of the Norfolk Virginian.)  
Fort Monroe, March 14th, 1866.

Another meeting, having for its object the furtherance of the Florida Immigrations Scheme, took place yesterday afternoon at Hampton, Va. The meeting was organized at 3 o'clock, and quite a large audience was in attendance. Freedman Wm. Thornton was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Calhoun (white) Secretary. After the usual preliminaries, freedman J.W. Dungy arose and addressed the audience, and in a few sensible remarks, demonstrated to the colored people that they were living too thickly on the Peninsula, and subject to all the evil influences of idleness and other vices, occasioned by the inability largest proportion of them to secure employment or work of any kind. He entreated the colored people present to seize hold of the movement, which was intended only for their good, without delay, and represent in the proper light, to their brethren, its importance and perfect practicability. He then read extracts of letters from residents of Florida, both colored and white, showing that land could be bought there for three dollars an acre, which they were paying annually on the Peninsula for rent alone, and concluded by remarking that the Homestead Bill of 1862, guarantees black or white one hundred and sixty acres of Government lands.

He was followed by Major General Miles, commanding the post, Brig. Gen. Armstrong, lately appointed

superintendent of the Ninth District of the Freedman's Bureau, Colonel James Curry, Post Commissary and Dr. Vogel, of Illinois, on a temporary visit to the Fortress. The burden of their speeches was essentially the same. The benefits to be reaped by immigration to Florida, where were thousands of acres of Government lands, rich, fertile and productive, and abounding in all kinds of tropical fruits, were dilated upon by the speakers.

The audience present began to manifest the utmost enthusiasm, and the speakers became almost carried away with the warmth and zeal with which they advocated the grand scheme – the exodus of the negro population from the Peninsula to the inviting lands of tropical Florida – when, in an unlucky moment, up jumped a Mr. Calvin Pepper, of Norfolk. Just after Gen. Miles and the other orators had taken their seats and were enjoying a short respite, preparatory to a fresh onslaught on the rather dull comprehension of the able audience present. To the astonishment of all, and the bewilderment of some, Mr. Pepper took his stand on the platform erected for the occasion, and surveying complacently the colored people in front, and bowing to those on the platform, (Gen. Miles and the others) in a very few seconds he not only completely succeeded in upsetting the arguments set forth by the previous speakers, but enlisted the entire sympathy on his side. He repudiated the idea of immigration to Florida as impracticable, and said it was fraught with evil consequences to those who should undertake it. In a little while the whole Peninsula, said he, will belong to the present inhabitants, and comfortable little farms and homesteads will spring up on every side. Why, then, should we desire to immigrate to Florida? – a land hundreds of miles away – when everything looks so promising for the future in the State where we were born and raised. He continued in this strain for half an hour, and evidently succeeded in diverting the minds of the audience from the original object of the meeting.

He was followed by a colored Dr. Bayne, also of Norfolk. His speech was even more bitter than his predecessor's. He not only seconded the arguments and opinions advanced by Mr. Pepper, but descanted for some length upon the evils of the Freedman's Bureau, as injurious to the true interests of the black man, and called upon the whole audience to treat with the utmost disgust and contempt the idea of their immigrating to Florida.

Matters at this crisis of the meeting began to assume rather a serious aspect, and mutterings from the sable brethren present soon were heard in the shape of hisses for Florida, and repeated cheers and hurrahs for Messrs. Pepper and Bayne.

General Miles and his party, headed by freedman J.W. Dungy, the first speaker, departed, deeming it was of no use to remain longer. Mr. Calvin Pepper and Dr. Bayne, then proceeded to organize a meeting of their own, and the speeches delivered by other colored brethren, were rapturously applauded. After the meeting was over a collection of fifty cents was levied on the audience, which was responded to by quite an extensive flourish of postage currency.

Thus ends the Florida Immigration Scheme here, so far as the military authorities are concerned. That the motive was a good one, and intended for the real interest of the twenty-five thousand negroes scattered in every direction, no one can doubt. That it has failed for the present, cannot be attributed to any lack of interest or provision made for its success by the Freedmen's Bureau, or its other friends, who, seeing the serious condition of affairs, have been desirous of securing this emigration of the freedmen.

S.G.W.

[Second article]

FORTRESS MONROE.

Great Meeting of Freedmen,

The Florida Emigration Scheme.

Its Denunciation by the Assemblage.

General Miles Retires from the Meeting.

The Object of the Authorities Defeated.

Fortress Monroe, March 14. - A large mass meeting of negroes, having for its object the furtherance of the Florida emigration movement, took place in Hampton yesterday evening. The meeting was regularly organized, and after the usual preliminaries, Mr. William Thornton (colored) was appointed Chairman, and Mr. Calhoun (white) as Secretary. Mr. J.W. Dungy, a runaway slave from Hampton, some years ago, rose and address the audience, and in a few sensible remarks, demonstrated that they were living too thickly on the Peninsula between Hampton and Yorktown, and, as the immediate result of which they were being subjected to all the evil influences of idleness and vice, and that instances of theft, depredations and other crimes against each other and the white residents of the country were becoming daily more numerous. He entreated the colored people present to lose no time in reflecting upon the subject, which was destined to be evidently one of the greatest importance to themselves and their families. He read extracts from residents of Florida, showing that land could

be purchased there for three dollars an acre, which they were paying for rent alone on the land which they now cultivate; and concluded by remarking that the Homestead bill of 1862 guaranteed them 160 acres of Government land.

He was followed by Major-General Miles, commanding the post; Brigadier-General Armstrong, formerly Colonel of the Eighth United States Colored Troops, lately appointed Superintendent of the Ninth District of the Freedmen's Bureau; Colonel James Curry, post-commissary, and Dr. Joice, of Illinois. The burden of their speeches was essentially the same. The immense benefits to be reaped by the population of the peninsula emigrating to Florida, where there were thousands of acres of Government lands, well watered, fertile, highly productive, and abounding in all kinds of tropical fruits, and where even the most indolent could obtain an existence, were respectfully dilated upon by the several speakers.

The colored audience, under the influence of the glowing speeches just made, in which happy homes, surrounded by every comfort and blessing, were graphically pictured, in their feverish imaginations, began to exhibit the utmost enthusiasm, and the most perfect harmony would have prevailed had not a disturbing element made its appearance in the person of a Mr. Calvin Pepper, a lawyer of Norfolk, who, in opposition to the purposes and objects of the Florida emigration movement, has been working hard to counteract, in connection with a few other dissenting adherents, the progress already made in enlisting the sympathies of the poor, crowded population of the peninsula in its behalf.

He took the platform erected for the occasion, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of the organizers of the meeting, proceeded at some length in refuting the arguments and assertions made by the previous speakers, and succeeded towards the end of his discourse in enlisting the entire sympathy of the colored people present in his behalf. He advocated the expediency of the colored residents of the peninsula remaining where they were, as in a little while the whole country of the peninsula would be theirs by Congressional legislation, and ridiculing the idea of emigration to Florida as being practicable, and that it was fraught with a great deal of evil consequences, and an uncertainty of protection and assistance being rendered them after their reaching there.

He was followed by a colored Dr. Bane, of Norfolk, whose speech was even more bitter and vituperous than the previous speaker. He denounced in strong terms the officers who were engaged in the project, and not only seconded the assertions and opinions advanced by Mr. Pepper, but descanted quite at length upon the evils of the Freedmen's Bureau, as injurious to the true interest of the black man, and called upon the whole audience there assembled to treat with the utmost contempt and disgust the idea of an emigration to Florida as bettering their condition.

The meeting just at this juncture of affairs assumed a rather turbulent appearance.

Loud cheers were given for Messrs. Band and Pepper, and long and continued hisses for Florida. Deeming it useless to remain longer, and as all efforts to quiet the two colored orators of the day were of no avail, Major-General Miles suggest to the delegation which accompanied him the propriety of departing, which was forthwith undertaken, followed by Mr. Dungy, the first speaker at the meeting. Thus terminated the efforts of the military authorities and others interested in the movement, for the present, to induce the immense population scattered all over the peninsula, between Old Point and Yorktown, to seek some other more favorable and less thickly settled clime.

It is estimated that about twenty-five thousand negroes are inhabiting the country mentioned, and to whom are monthly distributed nearly sixty thousand rations by the Commissary Department at this post. They are principally in charge of the Freedmen's Bureau, but a good proportion of them have small lots, on which they raise enough vegetables, &c., to provide subsistence for themselves and families. The largest portion of them, however, roam at will over the country, almost entirely destitute of employment, and dependent on Government rations issued them for the means wherewith to sustain life.

The alarming phase which their condition has of late assumed has been the principal reason which has stirred up the Freedmen's Bureau and other Government officers of starting the Florida emigration movement among the negroes of this section of the State. But so far all the efforts have proven well near useless to induce them to emigrate from the lands they now occupy, as the results of the Haytien emigration from this place several years ago has done much evil in prejudicing the blacks against the very idea of emigration to another country of which they are entirely ignorant.

Immediately after General Miles, and the deputation of gentlemen who had accompanied him, had left the meeting in disgust at the subsequent opposite turn which affairs had taken, the two before mentioned colored gentlemen from Norfolk organized a meeting of their own, and detailed to their interested colored brethren, their

own peculiar views in regard to establishing colonies on the lands near the city of Norfolk, on the peninsula, and in other portions of the State. Their remarks were warmly applauded, and just before the meeting finally broke up, a collection of fifty cents in support of their colonization scheme was levied upon each member of the audience, which was heartily responded to. Another meeting, in furtherance of their project, is it proposed to hold next Saturday.

The United States naval steamer *Don*, Lieutenant Commander Chandler, which arrived here last evening from New York, sailed this morning from Annapolis, Md.

The schooner *Native*, belonging in Norfolk, was recently totally wrecked on a bar near the Eastern Shore, Va. The crew, five in number, lashed themselves to the rigging during the prevalence of the storm, and were rescued by the schooners *Mary* and *Rio Grande*. One of the crew, a colored man, subsequently died from exposure to the weather. The *Native* belonged to Captain Roderick McInnis, of Norfolk, who lost all his papers and books with the vessel.

[Third clipping.]

The Florida Immigration Scheme. - The so-called Florida immigration scheme, is the absorbing topic among the negroes of Camp Hamilton, Hampton, and the surrounding country. Major General Miles has addressed a public meeting in Hampton on the subject. Col. Curry opened the meeting and gave a glowing account of the fertility of the land. We publish below the letter from our special correspondent:

Fortress Monroe, Va., March 13, 1866 -

The Florida Immigration Scheme is the all-absorbing topic of conversation and interest, just at present, among the negroes of Camp Hamilton, Hampton, and the surrounding country. This scheme, which was set in motion several months ago by the officers, and others interested in the freedmen, or rather more particularly, the workings of the Freedmen's Bureau, is nothing more nor less than an attempt to induce the negroes, now thickly inhabiting the Peninsula without employment, and, in the majority of cases, wholly destitute of any visible means of support, to leave this region and emigrate to the far more genial climate and fertile soil of Florida. It is an astonishing fact, that at this moment there are about twenty-five thousand of these negroes scattered in all directions, and domiciled on the various farms, worked under the auspices of the Freedmen's Bureau, or on small unproductive, or, at least, non-sustaining lots of ground of their own, between Old Point and Yorktown. To these wards of the nation are monthly distributed nearly sixty thousand rations by the Commissary Department, at this Post, and to this provision made by the Government must alone be attributed the wonderful harmony that has prevailed among them, and the almost total absence of pillage and other depredations among the white farmers and residents of the Peninsula. Of these twenty-five thousand negroes it is estimated that seventy-five per cent of them are composed of old, decrepid men and women - children of an age too young to take care of themselves, a goodly proportion of those too lazy to work, and a large number who are utterly unable to obtain any employment whatever. All these are dependent on the rations issued by the Government for the means wherewith to sustain life and keep body and soul together. To the inquiring mind the suggestion naturally presents itself, What will become of these negroes when the issuing of rations ceases? Eventually it must come to this. The large amount of commissary stores on hand here at Old Point when hostilities terminated has been so rapidly depleted by the demands of the United States forces stationed in the State and by the increasing necessities of the Freedmen's Bureau, that the stock is becoming sadly in need of replenishing, to meet the wants of the latter institution alone.

The alarming phase with which this subject is being viewed by the military authorities, and even officers of the Freedmen's Bureau, stationed here, and who are supposed to be perfectly conversant with the condition of affairs, has lately given an additional impetus to the Florida emigration scheme. Several afternoons ago quite a respectable sized meeting was held in Hampton for the furtherance of this object. The meeting was addressed by Major General Miles, commanding the post, Colonel James Curry, post commissary, Dr. Joyce, several gentlemen of color, and others. A great deal of enthusiasm was manifested by the audience, which was altogether of a sable hue.

Col. Curry opened the meeting in quite a lengthy and interesting speech, giving a description of the lands of Florida, in which country he had an experience of some five years; their remarkable fertility and productiveness, and the congeniality of the climate, are said to be adapted to the nature and condition of the black man.

General Miles made a few remarks, replete with excellent advice, to the promising youth of the audience, which he saw before him. Under the Homestead Bill, said the General, you are entitled to one hundred and sixty acres of government land, wherever you may choose it; and as all your expenses will be defrayed by the government in traveling to Florida, and 90 days' rations furnished to your families, the inducements thus held out ought certainly to stir you up, to do something for yourselves, and relieve the government of a steadily

increasing burden.

The meeting lasted several hours, and may be productive of good results.

Another meeting will be held this afternoon at 3 o'clock, and still greater efforts are expected to be made to enlist the interest of the darkies in the project.