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3438 3/23/1866

*From:* D.S. Keller

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

OOH-3384

Howard Division No. 21,  
Sons of Temperance,  
Washington, D.C.

U.S. Army

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[181]

Howard Division No. 21,  
Sons of Temperance,  
Washington, D.C. Mar. 23d, 1866

General:

In compliance with a resolution passed by this Division in its session of Mch. 22d, I have the honor to inform you that you have been elected to membership in Howard Division, No. 21. S. of T.

If consistent with your engagements we respectfully ask that you formally unite with us some Thursday evening, and inform us when it will be possible for you to do so.

This Division was named in your honor, and it is well deserving the favorable consideration of its honored patronymic. It is second to no organization of the kind in the country. I has already proved a powerful instrumentality for good, and your connection with it would greatly increase its usefulness.

Hoping to receive a favorable response,

I remain, Very Respectfully

Your obdt. Servant,

D.S. Keller "P.S."

"Q.M. Genl's Office"

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
U.S. Army

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3439 3/23/1866 *From:* E A Duncan

*To:* My Dear Genl [OO  
Howard]

OOH-3385

Dubuque Iowa

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[182]

Dubuque March 23d [1866] [The year was written in pencil.]

My Dear Genl

I am out of the service and a pauper and have not means to establish my self in my profession at present. Have you a clerkship or anything else in your department you can give me for the present so I can earn my daily bread until I can turn round. If so I will be ever grateful.

I have just hear with sorrow of Harry Stinson's death. I deeply sympathise with his bereaved mother.

Yours Respectfully  
as ever my Dear Genl  
E A Duncan  
Dubuque Iowa

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3440 3/23/1866

*From:* Geo. H. Stuart

*To:* Maj Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3386

*Source:* Bowdoin

U.S. Christian  
Commission  
Central Office,  
No. 11 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia

Washington DC

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[183]

[Letterhead]

U.S. Christian Commission  
Central Office,  
No. 11 Bank Street.  
Philadelphia,  
Geo. H. Stuart, Chairman, 11 Bank Street,  
Jos. Patterson, Treasurer, Western Bank.  
Rev. Lemuel Moss, Home Secretary, 11 Bank Street.  
Rev. E.P. Smith, Field Secretary, 11 Bank Street.  
March 23 1866

My Dear General -

Shall you be kind enough to append your autograph to the accompanying "cartes de visite" of yourself, and return them to me in the enclosed stamped envelope. I wish to have them to present to some friends in Europe.

I do not want to give you any trouble but if you would be kind enough to furnish me with the information concerning the work now being prosecuted among the Freedmen, for which I wrote you a short time since, you would place me under a very great obligation. I hope it will not put you to inconvenience to let me have this at an early date, as I wish to put it in my book of Statistics which I take with me to Europe.

If I can be of any service to you in Europe, please let me know, and I shall gladly execute any commission with which you may entrust me.

Yours Very Truly  
Geo. H. Stuart

Maj Gen. Howard  
Washington DC

Please put your name at the bottom of the photograph.

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3441 3/23/1866 *From:* Unknown

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

OOH-3387

Washington D.C.

Commissioner of R.F. & A.L.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[185]

Washington D.C.  
March 23d 1866

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Commissioner of R.F. & A.L.  
General:

I take the liberty to introduce to you Gen. Kent, recently Provost Marshal General of Dept of Texas, now Collector of Customs for Texas.

Gen Kents duties as Provost Marshal brought him in contact with many of the leading citizens of Texas and he may be able to give you information that will be of some value.

I remain, General,  
With much respect  
(over)

[Note. A second page with the addressee's name was missing.]

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3442 3/23/1866

*From:* Harriet M.  
Hogeboom  
New Haven, Ct.

*To:* Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3388

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[186, 187, 188]

New Haven March 23rd 1866

Gen. O.O. Howard,  
Dear Sir,

When you were in New Haven in Feb'y I had the pleasure of calling on you at your Hotel the morning afer you lectured, and conversing with you with especial reference to the future work best to be done by the Freedmen's Aid Soc'y of which I am the Secretary. I hope it will not be impossible for you to recall these facts nor that you were so kind at that time as to propose that I should write to you at any time for such information and assistance in the work as I might desire. My addressing you at this time is grounded on the permission.

I am contemplating a tour early in April, along the Atlantic coast as far South as Savannah for the especial purpose of visiting the mission schools among the colored people and seeing generally as much as I can of the work of benevolence which is being done among those recently in slavery. If I go it will be under the protection of the Am'cn Missionary Ass'tn, as it is by their request that the trip is undertaken, in order that I may have more definite information with which to work in the formation of Freedmen's Aid Societies in this State during the coming year. I presume my connection with that Ass'tn will be a sufficient introduction to most persons and places interesting for me to visit, yet it may not be to all, and as I should be glad to have every opportunity I can, I should greatly value a letter from you which I might use as a passport wherever the good work is going on.

I was so much interested in your account of the Quaker Industrial Schools that immediately after you were here I wrote to my only Quaker friend for more information about them. The result is I have a most cordial letter of introduction to all Quaker workers in the field with an invitation to visit their schools and asylums, but from what I can learn these are located in the Mississippi valley, and if so I can not see them. I shall be glad to know if there is anything of the kind on the Atlantic border, and if so where.

Perhaps you will be interested to know that you F.A. Soc'y has sent South since the first of Dec. Over 5000 garments and has raised and expended in material for clothing nearly \$2000.

When you visited our city you had little evidence of the deep earnest sympathy for you and your work which prevails among our very best citizens. The College and the Congregational churches are heartily looking and praying for your success. When you were here these persons were deeply afflicted in the death of one of our oldest and most prominent clergymen. The news of this had fallen most suddenly and overwhelmingly that morning uon the religious part of the community, and that being the evening for the church prayer meeting, they collected sympathetically there. I hope there will be another opportunity for them and for us all, and that you will not delay the publication of whatever may put your friends at the North into as full sympathy as possible with your plans and your views. I am sure something of this kind from you for general popular reading would greatly forward the work.

With the hope that I have not been trespassing too much upon your kindness.

I am,  
Very respectfully  
Yours  
Harriet M. Hogeboom

My address is  
"Miss H.M. Hogeboom  
New Haven, Ct."

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

New Haven Conn.

Mar. 23rd 66

Hogeboom, Harriet M.

Writes friendly letter concerning the work in Conn for the aid of the freedmen.

[STAMP] BUREAU R.F.&A.L. WASHINGTON REC'D MAR 24 1866

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3444 3/24/1866

*From:* Rev. S.E. Colburn

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3389

Parkersburg West Va.

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[190]

Parkersburg West Va.  
March 24 1866

Major Genl Howard  
Washington D.C.  
Sir,

Yours of 22 ult at hand. Will you permit us to remove the school ward. Do you think it advisable to remove it, that is, can they have the use of it long enough to pay expense. I expect to solicit aid abroad. They need a house very much, their children are in the streets. It will cost about \$500.00 to build a common house. If convenient please answer by return mail.

Very respectfully Your Obt. Servant  
Rev. S.E. Colburn

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

Parkersburg, W. Va.

Mar 24, 1866

Colburn, S.E.

Desires permission to have the school house for cold. children.

Recd Mar 29, 1866

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3445 3/26/1866      *From:* Thomas M Brewer      *To:* Hon. Geo. N. Boutwell

OOH-3390                      Boston

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[191]

Boston March 26th '66

Hon. Geo. N. Boutwell  
My dear Sir

May I venture to intrude upon your good nature a matter not belonging strictly to public business? My excuse, perhaps inadequate, may be found in your past connection with, and interest in, matters of public instruction.

My story, as briefly as I can tell it, is this. The New England Freedmens Association, after a careful examination of all the books in the market adopted for use in the freedmens schools, etc etc, to make use of our publications as the best for their purpose, namely, Hillard Readers and Worcester's spelling books. These they furnished, where they established schools, paid the teachers and supplied the books. At their suggestion and request, we sent to a bookseller in Raleigh, N.C. a supply of our publications, such as they were using. They were received and highly approved by teachers and agents. In a short time their sale was forbidden by the officers of the Freedmens Bureau, and the Association here received letters to the effect that no donations would be received unless they were Parker and Watson's books published by Barnes & Co. of New York. At the same time we were notified that the sale of our books would not be permitted, we were requested to pay storage and other expenses and recall our books.

To this the Association objected, insisting upon <being [CHECK ORIGINAL - under the tape right side of page 2.]> the judges of whom they should send as teachers and of what they should send as books. They advised us also, to allow our books to remain in N.C. subject to their order, which we did. We wrote to the officers of the Bureau in Raleigh, and sent them our books for examination and asked him to compare them with those thus <arbitrarily> adopted. We received no answer, and the only one, so far as I know, that has ever come, was from New York, from the publishers of Parker and Watson's, offering to the Association to take off their hands, in even exchange, all of our publications they might have on hand and wishing them hereafter to buy their publications instead of ours. This they declined to do and so the matter rested, until Mrs Jotham Lane, who conducted the business of the Freedmens Association was taken ill.

Another case, where the tyranny of those who profess to act for the Bureau is even more gross. In Jacksonville Fla. a friend of mine is in the lumber business. His partner wrote that they were entirely destitute of school books and he accordingly bought a small lot as a sample. They were all sold as soon as received and were very acceptable. A second and much larger lot was ordered, but soon after their arrival the military authorities forbid their sale, as if Worcester's dictionaries, spelling books, and our readers were either seditious or poisonous to the public morals and the books ordered home!

Now surely all this high-handed usurpation must be illegal and without the sanction of the Bureau! It cannot be that it was ever intended thus, as in North Carolina, to forbid a large and respectable association from giving their charity in the manner they believe most serviceable? Nor as in Florida, to forbid the selling under penalties of martial law the only really patriotic series of readers that has ever been published. The question with me is to whom can I state my case and seek for redress? All I ask is fair play and a chance to have our books judged upon their merits. I do know that where we can do this in our free white schools, Parker & Watson stand no chance as compared with ours.

Will you be so very kind, if you can suggest any thing, to advise me what steps to take to have justice?

Your friend and servt.  
Thomas M Brewer

[Written upside down on the last page, in a different hand.]  
Respectfully referred to the Comr of Freedman's Bureau.  
/s/ Geo. L. Boutwell



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

Boston, Mar. 26, 1866

Brewer, Thos. M.

Endorsed to Genl. Howard by Representative Boutwell of Mass. Complains of action of School Supt. Fiske of N.C. in prescribing the books to be used by the teachers of the N.E. F. Assn.

[Written in a fourth hand.] Investigation

Recd. April 9th 1866

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3446 3/26/1866      *From:* William E. Matthews      *To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3391

24 Pierce Street  
Baltimore

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[193]

24 Pierce Street  
Baltimore March 26th 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard,  
My dear Sir,

I write to inform you that every arrangement has been made for your lecture of tomorrow (Tuesday) evening. I hope there will be no disappointment on your part. I believe you are expected to stop with the Rev Mr Johnson. You in company with Mr Johnson will meet Judge Bond, Mr Albert and other gentleman at the Rooms of the Association for the Moral and Intellectual Improvement of the Colored People, when you will all proceed to the Hall in Company.

Please do not dissappoint us under any consideration.

I am with Profound Regard  
Yours Very Truly  
William E. Matthews

[Written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]  
Matthews Wm. E.  
Concerning Gen. Howards lecture in Baltimore  
Recd Mar 27, 1866

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3447 3/26/1866

*From:* Geo N. Reynolds

*To:* Maj Gen'l [OO] Howard

OOH-3392

*Source:* Bowdoin

Union Mutual Life  
Insurance Company,  
No. 33 Reynolds'  
Arcade,  
Rochester, N.Y.

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[194]

[Letterhead]

Union Mutual Life Insurance Company,  
No. 33 Reynolds' Arcade,  
Rochester, N.Y.

Mar. 26 1866

Maj Gen'l Howard

Dear General,

Will you be so kind as to give to me the exact date and place of the decease of my late dearly beloved friend Harry Stinson.

I have been unable to learn anything definite in regard to it, and, I assure you, that you will confer upon me a great favor by giving the above items and any other facts which you may have the time to write.

Trusting that I shall not infringe to much upon your already greatly preoccupied time,

I remain with Kindest regards,

Very Resp'y Your obt Serv

Geo N. Reynolds

[Written in red ink across the letter.]

P.O. Box 525

Rochester N.Y.

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

Rochester N.Y. Mar. 26 1866

Reynolds, Geo. N.

Desires information concerning Col. Harry Stinson death

Recd. Mar. 29th 1866