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3520 4/28/1866    *From:* Seth Padelford

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3469

Providence [R.I.]

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[65]

Providence [R.I.] April 28th 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir,

Rev Mr Stewart, Sec'y of the R.I. Freedman's Association, has informed the Board of this Association that you have expressed a willingness to address our citizens during your absence from Washington, while in a contemplated visit to New York in the month of May.

It would be highly gratifying to our community who have taken a deep interest in the objects of the Bureau, of which you are the honored head, if they could have this great pleasure.

It may also be the means of adding largely to the funds of the R.I. Association, & aid them in carrying forward this great Christian work. I shall be glad to have you as my guest during your stay in Providence, & assure you that your visit here shall not be a pecuniary tax on your purse.

Will you please inform me of the day we may expect you here, in order that we may make the necessary arrangements for a meeting, & give it due publicity?

Very respectfully, Your ob'd't servant  
Seth Padelford, President R.I. Freedman's Association

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3522 4/29/1866

*From:* Davis Tillson

*To:* Major Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3470

*Source:* Bowdoin

Bureau of Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't  
Commissioner, State of  
Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.

Comr Bur R.FAL  
Washington DC

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[67, 68]

[Letterhead]

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,  
Office Act. Ass't Commissioner, State of Georgia,  
Augusta, Ga.,  
April 29th 1866.

Dear General

I enclose a slip cut from a city paper giving, on the whole a very fair and trustful account of an occurrence that I have no doubt from the feeling exhibited, is destined to create considerable discussion. My chief Surgeon, Dr Lawton, boards with the teachers referred to and from him I learn that there is every reason to believe that the feeling of the citizens with reference to this attempted display, following but at the interval of a single day, the decking of the confederate soldier's graves in the same cemetery, in which the whole community took part – was really intended as a taunt and an act of defiance.

But whether this opinion on the part of the citizens was well founded or not, it was plainly so regarded and therefore I advised against the movement as inexpedient and likely to engender unpleasant feelings. The result proved that my expectations were well founded. I suggested that the decoration of the graves of our soldiers be put off for a week or fortnight and the Major very readily and kindly accepted the proposition offering at that time to have the graves all cleared of leaves or grass and to give every possible facility for their decoration but his did not suit the purposes of the movers of the undertaking who evidently had some other intention beside paying a tribute of affection and love for our dead soldiers and promoting harmony and good will between the two races, now more than ever necessary to secure justice to the weaker as the troops have been withdrawn.. The spirit of the movement was made manifest by the application to me by Capt Bryant for an armed force to compel the admission of the freed people into the cemetery, when it was plain that in all probability such a course would have caused bloodshed.

I have since had a very plain and severe talk with Mr Eberhart and have informed him that hereafter he must attend strictly to his own business and strive to promote harmony , otherwise I should remove him from the office he now holds as State Supt Freedmens School. He is extravagantly fond of making speeches and has been mixing himself up recently with parters claiming to be great friends to the negro but who are compelled to live by the latters necessities. The female school teachers, who were the prime movers in the matter, have been repeatedly insulted by citizens and have not been able to bear it with equanimity, and having sharp sarcastic tongues they have indulged in saying things that had better have remained unsaid. I begin to fear that Capt Bryant, who lives by what he receives for services rendered the freed people is not exercising a very good influence among them. I am informed that he and the teachers propose to ventilate this unfortunate occurrence in the <Nershem> papers. I fear they may do it with that disregard of truth which will make them ever more distasteful to the citizen than they now are.

Really General – when I witness the want of charity, the hypocrisy, the intense and vulgar desire to obtain a meretricious reputation in the newspapers exhibited by some of these friends of the negro, I dont wonder at the disgust with which they are regarded by the Southern people.

With the highest and kindest regards I am yours truly  
Davis Tillson  
B. G. Vols

Major Genl Howard  
Comr Bur R.FAL  
Washington DC

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3523 4/29/1866 *From:* S. Towle

*To:* Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3471

Lowell Mass

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[69]

Lowell Mass April 29th / 66

Genl Howard, Sir,

I now enclose a few photographs from the negatives taken of you while in Lowell last winter, and would have sent them to you long ago but as I had a great many calls for them soon after you were here, and could not get enough on hand to send to you until lately. Hoping that you will receive them in safety.

Truly Yours,  
S. Towle

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3524 4/30/1866 *From:* John N. Dickey

*To:* Major Genl. O.O. Howard

OOH-3472

Phila

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[70, 71]

[Letterhead, including an engraving of four buildings of the University]

Lincoln University  
Oxford, Chester Co., Penna.  
Phila April 30th 1866

Major Genl. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

The enclosed papers give notice of your election by the Presbytery of Newcastle as a Trustee of the Lincoln University and explain the object of the Institution. Hon. Wm E. Dodge who is also a Trustee and has long been interested in the education of colored me at this institution, will kindly represent to you further the purpose in view. You have been elected with Dr. E.N. Kirk of Boston as representatives of the Congregational branch of our American Evangelical Church – and such is the confidence in your Christian integrity, and just interest in the colored people of our country, as well as admiration of your military service, that by consenting to act as a Trustee of the Lincoln University you may by Gods blessing be able to do much good.

Nothing will so beat down prejudice against the colored people North as well as South as to see the hand of such men as yourself raised in their favor, and while we cannot trespass upon you for much time, we will venture to ask for one day to attend our exercises on the 21 of June and a few words of encouragement. Should you grant us this, we will get such a meeting as we have seldom had in even our times of war excitement & you will give impulse to a great branch of the work you are now engaged in. We will communicate further with you in a short time.

Very respectfully  
John N. Dickey  
Pres't former Trustees

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

Phila. April 30, 1866  
Dickey, J.M.  
Prest. Former board of Trustees  
States Gen. Howard has been elected a trustee of the Lincoln University (Colored).  
Recd. May 2nd 1866,

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3525 4/30/1866

*From:* D. D. Beebe

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3473

Hudson Summit Co.  
Ohio

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[72]

[Embossing Stamp]

D. D. Beebe  
Dry Goods  
Groceries  
Hardware, Crockery  
Clothing &c.  
Hudson, O.

Hudson Summit Co. O.  
Apl 30, 1866

Maj Gen Howard  
Dr Sir

A few days since I rec'd a letter from my son W M Beebe Jr who is now on duty in Charleston Harbor, requesting me to aid him, in procuring a position in the regular Army.

Thinking that perhaps your suggestion to the proper authority, would be all sufficient, if any endorsement, would, avail, I take the liberty of making the request, that if you think him in experience, national qualifications &c, fit for the service & if there are no objections personal to yourself, you will lay me under this additional obligation on his behalf.

I am induced to make this request, from the impression derived from your uniform kindness to my son that you feel some interest in him & would willingly do him a favor.

If I were aware of any other mode of subserving his interests & wishes, as well I would not trespass on your attention.

With many thanks for your previous kindnesses,

I am as ever  
Your obt servant  
W M Bee

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3526 4/30/1866

*From:* H Nichols  
Wadsworth, D.D.S.  
366 C St Near 4 ½ St  
Washington

*To:* Genl O.O. Howard

OOH-3474

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[76]

366 C St Near 4 ½ St  
Washington April 30, 1866

Genl O.O. Howard USA  
General

I have learned from Miss Washington that you are in search of a furnished house for a few months; it is possible if you will call at your leisure at my residence that an arrangement might be made which would be mutually agreeable, as I am intending to send my family into the country for the summer, & would let you occupy my house for a few months if we can agree upon terms

I am General  
Respectfully  
Yours  
H Nichols Wadsworth, D.D.S.

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3527 4/30/1866 *From:* E. Turney

*To:* Major Gen. O.O. Howard

OOH-3475

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[73, 74, 75, 76]

Washington, D.C.  
April 30, 1866

Major Gen. O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir -

The forgoing is from the published Minutes of what was probably the largest religious Convention of colored people ever held in this country, the Missionary convention or the Baptist churches of the North and South, meeting in Alex'a in Aug. last.

I was with them during most of their sessions which were continued through ten days.

The Secretary of the convention has represented me as using an expression which I did not employ. After referring to yourself and your views and feelings toward the freedmen, I remarked that Col. Eaton had very well reflected the spirit and purpose which governed the Bureau, or something to that effect. This remark in the substance of it he has expressed in his own way.

I was happy in improving the occasion, as I have improved other occasions, in seeking to inspire in their minds confidence in those whom I knew to be their friends, and there probably could have been no occasion more favorable for extending this influence into different sections of the country, than the one one there presented.

You doubtless on your return from your tour at the North in August, received my report of facts learned and impressions received during my trip through Virginia and North Carolina. The accuracy and justness of the views expressed in that paper, have been more than confirmed by subsequent developments.

Allow me to express the hope that you will aid us in every way possible in the work in which we are engaged. I can not but regard it as second in importance to none in it direct bearings on the intellectual, moral and religious, as well as social and political interests of the colored people of this country. As Dr. Hague of Boston expresses it, "it lies right at the centre." "And that success here is ultimate success every where."

I have now under my supervision twenty four distinct schools which are in successful operations – besides several others which have been organized and for which provisions will soon be made.

Connected with these 24 schools are some 27 principal teachers, besides assistants. Most of these schools are, of course, night schools.

Our plan admits of the extension of the work to almost any extent desirable.

It would give me pleasure to apprise you of some of the rich fruits of this labor of love.

Your most respectfully  
E. Turney [Rev. Edward Turney]

P.S. One encouraging feature of our work is that it has the fullest sympathy and cooperation of the colored brethren themselves.

[Clipping #1]

After singing the 856th hymn, Col. Eaton, aid to Gen. Howard, of the Freedmen's Bureau, at Washington D.C., being introduced, addressed the Convention in a very happy manner, encouraging us to expect all things that God had promised us, knowing that "He that promises will assuredly fulfill." From his experience with the colored race, he was well satisfied, that "if let alone," they would succeed against every opposition, for they show that the same social and moral qualities abound with them as with the white race.



He entreated the colored race to continue to pray for this government, and rely upon the promises of an unchanging God.

On motion, Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be, and are hereby tendered to Col. Eaton for his encouraging address, and that said thanks be expressed by standing, to which the entire audiences unanimously responded.

Rev. E. Turney, D.D., of Washington, D.C., next addressed the Convention, expressing his entire confidence in the administration of Gen. Howard, and likewise all connected with him, Col. Eaton being his "express image."

He heartily indorsed all the Col. Eaton had said, and hoped the colored race would act accordingly.

[Clipping #2]

From the Missionary Convention of Colored Churches

The American Baptist Missionary Convention of the colored Baptist churches of this country, recently assembling at Alexandria, Va., say that they "Heartily rejoice in the establishment of the National Theological Institute, under the presidency of Rev. E. Turney, D.D., for the education of the Colored Ministry." They also say: "Its plan of operation meets our cordial approbation; and we hope it may furnish a common ground on which the white and the colored churches may harmoniously co-operate for the promotion of education, and that our brethren may seek to extend its advantages as widely as possible."

Referring to the Services which the President of the Institute had been able in various ways to render for promoting the welfare of their people, in connection with an expression of "thanks" for his "hearty assistance," they say: "and we do recommend him to the co-operation, sympathy, and prayers of all our churches."

[Clipping #3]

The following is from the Rev. Dr. Hague, of Boston, as published in the Christian Watchman and Reflector:

"Among the special services which the times demand, the instruction of colored preachers is one of urgent necessity. Scattered abroad over the Southern country there are preachers whom the people are glad to hear. They are ever moving; they do not let the grass grow under their feet." But they do need instruction to fit them for the kind of leadership that is thus thrust upon them. For this purpose an Association has been formed, having in charge the National Theological Institute for colored Ministers, at Washington, D.C.\* They have requested their Corresponding Secretary, the President of the Institute, Rev. E. Turney, D.D., to visit the North to state facts, and as far as possible, secure co-operation. Dr. Turney is a man of unquenchable zeal as well as of excellent scholarship. He is thoroughly devoted to his work, and every fibre of his being is alive to its appeals. His work is of the highest importance, and no one can listen to his conversation ten minute without being touched by his earnestness and moved to sympathy.

"The immense mass of things to be done for the Freedmen precipitated upon the churches of the North may seem, for a time, somewhat confusing. But gradually the different departments of the field will be accurately mapped out, and every sympathetic spirit can be working 'where it listeth.' but in view of the exigences of the present day and the passing hour, no one can doubt, we think that the cause which Dr. Turney has undertaken, lies 'right and the contre;' and that success here is ultimate success everywhere."

\* [Handwritten footnote, written sideways in the left margin.] The centre of whose operations is Washington.

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

Washington D.C. April 30th /66

Turney, John [This is wrong. It is Edward Turney.]

Writes concerning convention of colored men in Boston.

Recd. May 1st 1866

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3528 4/30/1866 *From:* R. Williams

*To:* Maj Gen [OO] Howard

OOH-3476

Washington, D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[77]

General -

I take the liberty of introducing to you the Reverend Father Wiget of the Catholic Church ,who will explain to you his wishes, if you can see him. Father Wiget has charge of several of the Catholic Churches in this city, and by his energy and assiduity has done more than any one I know to alleviate the condition of the poor. Any thing you may be able to do for him will be regarded as a personal favor by me.

Yours Truly  
R. Williams

Maj Gen Howard

Washington  
April 30 / 66

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

Washington, D.C. April 30 / 66

R. Williams

Introducing Father Wiget

[Note. This was probably referring to Reverend Father Bernardin F. Wiget, president of Gonzaga College, Washington, D.C. from 1861 to 1868.]

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3529 4/30/1866     *From:* Lyman Abbott

*To:* Fred W. Owen.  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.

OOH-3477

Am. Fr. & Union Com.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[79, 80, 81, 82]

April 30th 1866

Fred W. Owen.  
Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard  
Washington, D.C.  
Dear Sir,

Your favor of the 17th inst. requesting information concerning the number of schools for white children in the South, conducted under the auspices of Northern Benevolent Associations, has been transmitted by Mr Shipherd to me. I find it difficult to afford any full or satisfactory answer. I have not yet been able to obtain any statistics of the work carried on by societies not in co-operation with the Freedmen's Union Commission. And by the fundamental clause of our Cons. all schools sustained by this Commission or either of its Branches are open to all the ignorant & needy, irrespective of caste or color. I have made out however as well as my limited information enables me to do a statement concerning those schools which are in fact used chiefly by the poor whites & enclose it, together with a published report of the late Am. Union Com., which gives some account of the origin of most of these schools.

Very Respectfully Yours  
Lyman Abbott  
Gen Sec.  
Am. Fr. & Union Com.

Statement of Schools in the South, sustained or commenced by the late A.U.C. & exclusively or chiefly occupied by whites.

Knoxville. Two teachers. About a hundred scholars. This school is under the charge of a Board of Trustees in Knoxville, & is mainly supported by the citizens there. The salaries of the teachers are however guaranteed by the late A.U.C. & will partly be paid out of a fund reserved for that purpose. (See page 10 of pamphlet)

Richmond. Five teachers. About three hundred to three hundred & fifty scholars. This school is sustained by the N.E. Branch of the Fr. & Union Com. It is open to colored children. But being already full, & ample provision being made in other schools under this Commission for colored children, it is believed that none have applied for admission to this school: (see page 7 of pamphlet.)

Fredericksburg. Two teachers. One hundred & fifty scholars. Sustained by the N.E. Branch. Open to colored children. In fact occupied mainly, if not exclusively, by white children.

Raleigh. Two teachers. Seventy five to a hundred children. Sustained by the N.E. Branch. Open to colored children. Occupied chiefly if not solely by poor whites; the same Branch having other schools at the same point, occupied chiefly if not solely by the Freedmen. (See page 14 of pamphlet.)

Wilmington. One teacher. Number of scholars not known. Sustained by the Soldier's Memorial Society of Boston. Occupied only by white children. (See page 15 of pamphlet.)

Georgia, Atlanta. Five schools –five teachers –four hundred & fifty children –occupied exclusively by the poor whites –sustained by the Penn. Union Commission.

Macon. Two teachers –A hundred pupils

Athens. One teacher. Fifty pupils

These schools are all sustained by the Penn. Union Com. & all exclusively devoted to white children.

Fernandina –Florida. Two teachers. One hundred & fifty scholars. Partly sustained by the citizens of the place, partly by funds reserved in the treasury of the late A.U.C.

These are the schools with which I am acquainted which are occupied exclusively, or nearly so, by white children. But this statement would be very imperfect did I not add that by the recent union of the Freedmen & the Union Commission, and the adoption of the present broad & catholic Constitution nearly all the undenominational schools originally opened for Freedmen are not thrown open to the poor of all classes, who are already beginning to avail themselves of the privileges thus proffered them, & to enter the free schools sustained by the commission & its respective Branches. Tables No 3 & 4 given in the May number of the American Freedman, advanced sheets of which I forward you herewith, give an account of these schools & their location, nearly all of which are henceforth Free schools, for the education of the Southern masses, without distinction of race or color.

Very Respectfully  
Lyman Abbott  
Gen. Sec.  
Am. Fr. & Union Com.