Washington, D.C.,
May 18th, 1866.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard,

Dear Sir,

Believing a written expression of your instructions would be much more effective with the Association, and others than my simple statement, I write to ask you to favor me with such as you deem best, forwarding them to me as soon as convenient at the rooms of the Freedman's Aid Commission, 1610 Jackson St.

In behalf of those whose interest I serve, I thank you for the kind attention you have given. Haply
your efforts for the good of the scheme
will be crowned with success; and
the reward of the righteous be yours.

I remain
Truly & Respectfully yours,

Chloe Merrick
Dear General,

I infer from reading the report of Mr. St. Léodier and Fulto that a systematic effort is being made to break up a card against the "Bureau" of that Committee whose power is too great. The Committee wants to secure the country and notice only the defects of our judiciary; they might conclude that the whole system was an outrage on community and ought to be abolished. This would strike even of our churches. Many foolish and unwise things have been done doubtless by officers of the Bureau. This perhaps has been the case in this District, but no honest militiamen near can deny that a vast amount of good has been done through this Agency thousands of
of White "Refugees" have been taken from plantation and many more thousands of the same class have been prevented from becoming permanent paupers by timely aid which has enabled them to again establish themselves in homes of their own — and more than this that has been done by being a both long and confiding on the two races so that both can live in peace and follow the peaceful pursuits of civil life. To say nothing of what has been done to encourage the freedmen to look forward to a higher and better life.

The only Officers of the Army on duty in this District who are interested in Cotton planting that I am aware of are Capt. Williams and Capt. Skinner, they reside in Colon. Money in Cotton planting with my full consent and approbation upon this Subject I have a full and free concurrence with.
Maj. Genl. Reynolds, Comg. the Dep't
and is not his hearty approv -
I cannot see that it does or has
in any way interfered with their
official duties -

Maj. Steedman furnishes the Cap.
- itate for a large Cotton Plantation
below Puff Bluff (The Johnson Plant)
the freedom employed them even bet.
on Government transportation from
Atlanta Ga. as I am informed and
believe - but no wrong was done the
Government by the transactions that I
am accounting -

I have just read your circular No. 4
ly which I see it is Contemplated to
transfer the duties of Capt. Commanders
To Dep't Commanders - I believe it
will work well in this Dep't - and
hoping it will in some small degree
at least lessen the embarrassment
and difficulties that I apprehend are
annoying you - I respectfully ask
To be relieved from duty in this Bureau and ordered to Miland, Ohio to be Quartered out of Quarters whereon it will best suit your convenience to grant this request.

This Command of the V.R. Corps has prior reports for assigning to duty.

I shall warrant that F. F. Reynolds returns from Indiana before assigning them so as to Consent with him about it this day as proper in respect of his soon taking charge of duties now entrusted to me.


dear General

Very Respectfully

and truly yours

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard
Commission
Washington D.C.

Jr. Maj. Genl. Sprague
Ottumwa, Iowa
May 29th, 1866

Dear Paul,

I have the honor and take the liberty to drop a line to you in regard to Mr. Broda's promotion which I see they are bestowing on several of the officers of my rank. I have just a letter from Mr. B. Smith, man to our town named Honble. E. M. Grimes and he will I think try and procure the Brn. B's for me and I would be under many and renewed obligations to you if you would drop him a line as to my contiguity. I know it will be no pecuniary
advantage to me but I have a pride in such matters and a desire to let my friends know that my opinion was appreciated. A line from you to Mr. Spring would help him on the occasion. I dislike to trouble you so much but I hope I may be able at some future time to repay you for all of this. I have crossed the plains twice this winter, but we have now sold out on our freight expediency and I shall probably settle down at my home in Burlington.

This state. My Drum and I would like to much to see you. I see Nancy many of the old campaign friends. They came Thursday and you and all inquire so.
Warmingly and Earnestly for you and take as much interest in your progress and welfare. Do write me young at Burlington Iowa. May God bless you in all your undertakings and ordine me as ever your sincere friend.

D. Emmick

Maj Genl O. Howard
Washington D.C.
May 29. 1863

Ottawa Town.

Bramick
Bramick Co. & Co.

Desires a
Breoch of Penny
Yea.

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Reed. June 14th 1863.
Private & Confidential

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Office Asst Commissioner, State of Georgia,
Augusta, Ga., May 29th 1866.

Dear Sir:

On Saturday, the 17th, I received a telegram from Mr. Stedman at Savannah, inviting me to join him part and accompany them on their tour through the Sea Islands of the State. I accepted the invitation and with them visited the Sea Islands, then proceeding to Jacksonville, Florida where we took the cars to Tallahassee and coming back via Thomsonville, Savannah to this city. I feel quite safe in assuming you that the Commission will make a favorable report on the operations of the Bureau in Florida and this State. They will also speak well of Mr. Scott and his subordinates. The Commission seemed much pleased with the conditions.
of things on the Sea Islands of this State. But Steedman said to me then they were at least 100 per cent better off than any of the Sea Islands south of the State. The statement in the Savannah papers about the interviews between the S.C. Govt. and the citizen are mostly false. I secured their correction and went in extensive see the Southern clip from the Savannah News of Wednesday. But Steedman told me that he knew things were in better shape in this State than in any other and that if he simply stated the truth, he expected to be accused of whitewashing the own Dept. I am impressed with the belief that Gen'l S. D. I. means to tell the truth without fear of a Malice and as a whole I don't think it will do any harm to the Southern or to the Southern. I take it for granted the reports in the newspapers about 70
asking to be relieved or meditating a resignation of your position as I see are all false. Don't think of such a step. Stand by the cause, I know you will come at all rights. It has been intimated to me that Fish wants your place. He don't stand enough to fill the position and besides, I fear he is insincere and hypocritical. They do not subject me to the mortification of seeing such a man resigning your place. The misconduct of the agents of the bureau here and there cannot and will not be changed to I am grateful with having the military command of the state. It will enable me more fully and completely to carry your order into effect. Please excuse my penmanship, I have a large hand. The papers say Congress will soon upon the President for information as to whether or not any officers have been engaged in them.
intending to visit Mrs. Brannan, or myself, home to the Confederate dead, & I hope it may be done, I wrote him an application to that effect. Please write me for calling attention to my request for authority to purchase a Newport Sail Boat for the use of an officer of the Bureau stationed at Brunswick. I have not received your answer. If I agree with you as to the necessity for such a boat and the stores it could command.

I am yours truly,

Dane Shinn
Brig. Maj. E.S.

Maj. Gen. Howard
Army, Armies of the Confederate States of America

Washington, D.C.
Washington,
May 30, 1866

Dear O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I called on you the other day about a matter which demanded urgent attention. You are reported "not in" when my missive was sent up, but I heard from another you were in at the time. I then left my letters, with a special request to have you look at them & return them with your answer as soon as possible. I have heard nothing from you since. I have never seen old
to send you a trouble I have written you on other occasion I have never had the honor of an answer save at one instance. I have had no difficulty in transacting business in other Business of the War Department I have always been treated respectfully I am sorry that owing to some cause or other my application is so peculiar with you I wonder whose fault it is.

Very respectfully

[Signature]
Raleigh May 30, 1866

Dear Bennett,

We are at a great loss to know what is going on in relation to our case. Having been relieved by order of the Secretary of War, I was assigned to no duty, and it having been published throughout the land that we are under arrest by order of the President, our situation is by no means a pleasant one. I do not doubt that you are doing all in your power to set the matter right, but I suppose we must wait in patience. Meantime, I am doing a little good, I hope, by visiting the schools and helping the teachers.

I see the W. G. Hoadly is very anxious that you should resign. I trust you will not do it. The Bureau will live and be useful, though my official connection with it is probably closed. I shall cease to feel an
interest in its prosperity. I trust you will hold on and weather this storm, whatever may be done with some of your subordinates for their "misconduct."

Yours Very Truly,

[Signature]

[Further handwritten notes and signatures]
Boston May 20, '66

My dear Gen.,

I have a few moments to say briefly some
thing of our journey thither
and of our doings on this
first day of our work.

As we left N., without
any plan of operation Thomp.
son and I spent a good
part of Tuesday in con
ducting a scheme of labor, so
that we might be ready at
once on reaching B. to put
our large designs.

After a very delightful journey
we arrived here this morning
in excellent time.

Commencing with the 8 o'clock
prayer meeting at Dr. Kirk's
Church we kept steadily at
work till 5 o'clock, dinner
time this eve, and had then
The result of your progress to encourage me, as you will see by what I say hereafter. We met one of our old friends, Mr. Palmer, at this prayer meeting who greeted us cordially and kindly introduced us to several good brethren. Then we found Alcock at the Tract Rooms who entered withanimation into our work, introduced us to several persons, and gave us valuable and timely counsel. Then our friend Langworth gave us a cheerful welcome, and, though very busy in preparing for his meeting in behalf of the Cong. Library, gave us a half hour of this valuable time for consultation.

We found Mr. Parry, Tobey, and Hardy, after rain, in another place, at the Cong. Lib. Meeting.
in the P.M.

After the Ave. Missy
at noon we joined with you
Brother Roland, James daily
At the Camp Lib. Meeting
in the P.M., the Chairmen Mr.
Toby, after speaking in most
pleasant terms of the regret
attained by reason of your
abence, said that two brethren
were present from the Church
you had so deep an in-
ested in; and then announced
that Thompson would
address the meeting!! Notwith-
standing this sudden and un-
expected move, I took the
stand, made a good speech
and did our cause justice
and himself credit.

To-morrow we have a
meeting of some of the friends
I well wishes of our cause.
Washington May 30/66

My Gen. O.O. Howard,

you will I have no doubt read carefully the record in my case & if you are satisfied of the injustice done me you will place me in a position so I can that any where any request which they go out on this subject. If you cannot do this I shall be compelled to have the matter thoroughly investigated before an ecclesiastical tribune as a lost cause. Both myself and family have suffered greatly for the last year and I know no doubt after the exominion of the case you will come to the conclusion that fully if not wickedly I go to Maine tomorrow. My P.O. will be Goshen. I am

Respectfully

E.J. Jackson
Boston, Mass
May 21, 1866

My dear Gen: I add this line to yesterday's to advise you of the success that seems to attend us in our good mission.

At the Prayer Meeting this morning I had an opportunity to say a word, and Dr. Chickering catching up the strain told who I was. At the close of the meet-
ing Dr. Kirk made some other remarks in like spirit with Dr. C. and conclu-
ding inviting those interested in our cause.
to remain after the meeting to hear from the Washington brethren.
This opportunity was more than we had expected.
We had hoped to meet a few leading men for consultation, but no long-
ger association.
Of what was done at this meeting you will learn by the account in the paper I sent you by this day's mail.
Thompson and already made good speeches.
Our audience was not large, and yet we trust we have struck a note that went home sounding.
The day has been spent in going about different...
Our efforts to find a good and capable agent have been wholly unsuccessful thus far. I very much doubt if we shall find Mr. Come the man for our work, and would suggest that no further negotiations be had until our return. Our friends here say our cause demands a man of known position and capacity who can go before the public with a recognized reputation. We have had no promise of such a man, but the suggestion has weight in my mind.
as public meeting for you on Sunday night June 10th. Our friends here all say, "Send Gen. Howard, send him! He is the man if you want money." and I am about convinced that they think so. I have heard everywhere and so often that I have about come to think you and you alone are to do this work or start it, so that others can keep it in motion. I repeat again after what I said to my last. That we need earnest genuine support on every hand. And your friend L. Deane.