

Washington D.C.

May 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Freedmen's Aid-Commission, 16 John St.

In behalf of those whose interests I serve, I thank you for the kind attention you have given. Hoping



your efforts for the good of the Freedmen  
will be crowned with success; and  
the reward of the righteous be yours.

I remain

Truly & Respectfully Yours

Chloe Merrih



*Personal*

87

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

FOR THE STATES OF MISSOURI, ARKANSAS AND INDIAN TERRITORY.

Office of Assistant Commissioner.

Little Rock, Ark., May 29, 1866

Dear General

I infer from reading  
the report of Genl. Stedman & Fullerton  
that a systematic effort is being made  
to make up a Case against the "Bureau"  
if that Committee were to traverse the  
Country and notice only the defects  
of our Judicary they might conclude  
that the whole System was an outrage  
on Community and ought to be abol-  
-ished - this would be true even of our  
Churches - many foolish and some  
bad things have been done doubtless  
by Officers of the Bureau this perhaps  
has been the case in this District  
but no honest intelligent man can  
deny that a vast amount of good  
has been done -

Through this Agency thousands of



of white "Refugees" have been saved from  
starvation 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  
work has been done by bringing into har-  
mony and confidence 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 wish to loan money in Cotton  
planting with my full consent and  
approbation - upon this subject I have  
a full and free consultation with



88

Maj Genl Reynolds Cony the Departing  
and it met his hearty approval -

I cannot see that it does or has  
in any way interfered with their  
Official duties -

Genl Stedman furnishes the Cap-  
ital for a large Cotton Plantation  
below Pine Bluff (the Johnson Place) &  
the Freedmen employed there were brot.  
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 aware of -

I have just recd your Circular No. 4  
by which I see it is contemplated to  
transfer the duties of Asst Commissioners  
to Asst. Commanders - I believe it  
will work well in this Dept. - and  
hoping it will in some small degree  
at least lessen the embarrassments  
and difficulties that I apprehend are  
annoying you - I respectfully ask



to be relieved from duty in this Bureau  
and ordered to Milan Ohio to be mustered  
out of Service whenever it will best  
suit your convenience to grant the  
request -

Fifteen Officers of the U. S. Corps have  
just reported for assignment to duty  
I shall wait until Emil Reynolds  
returns from Indiana before assigning  
them so as to consult with him about  
it - this I regard as proper in view  
of his soon taking charge of duties  
now entrusted to me -

I am General

Very Respectfully  
and truly yours

Major Genl O. O. Howard  
Commissioner  
Washington  
D.C.

J. W. Sprague  
Act Major Genl  
Act Comm

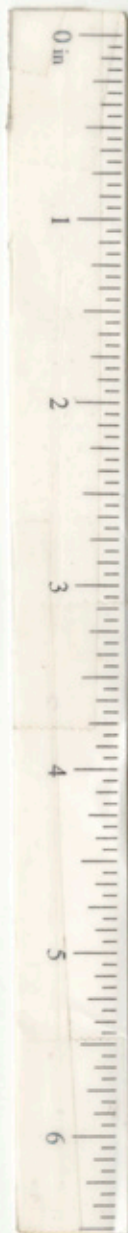


Ottumwa Iowa  
May 29<sup>th</sup> 1866

Dear Paul -

I have the honor  
and take the liberty to drop  
a few lines to you in regard  
to Bro's promotion which  
I see they are bestowing on  
several of the officers of  
my dep't - I have sent a  
letter rec'd from Paul Sher-  
man to our Iowa Synodical  
Honble J. W. Grinn and he  
will I think try and procure  
the Bro's B'g for me and I  
would be under many an  
unnew'd obligation to you if you  
would drop him a few lines  
as to my worthiness &c - I  
know it will be no presumption

advantage to me but I have  
a pride in such matters and  
a desire to let my friends  
know that my services were  
appreciated = A line from  
you to Mr. Linn would justify  
him for the occasion = I desire  
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  
our first & reserve line and  
I shall probably settle down  
at my home in Burlington  
this state = My Dear Grand  
I would like so much to see  
you = I see many many of  
the old Campaign Veterans &  
heroes that have served with  
you and all inquiries so





90  
warmly and earnestly for  
you and take so much  
interest in your progress  
and welfare. Do write  
me from at Burlington soon  
May God bless you in all  
of your indentations and  
believe me as ever

Your sincere friend  
& humble servant  
D. H. H. H.

May Genl O. Howard  
Washington  
D.C.



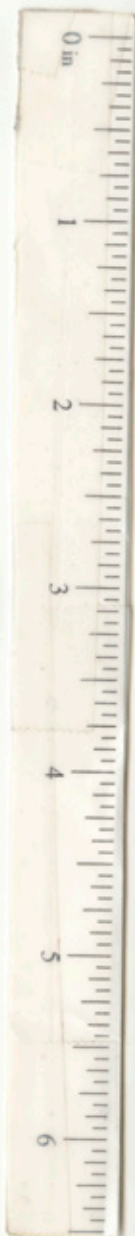
May 29. 1864.  
Ottawa Iowa.

Remick L.  
Brevet Capt. & Col.

Desires a  
Brevet of Brig.  
Genl.

---

Recd. June 4<sup>th</sup> 1864.





Private &  
Confidential }

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

91

Augusta, Ga., May 29<sup>th</sup> 1866.

Dear General

On Saturday, the 19<sup>th</sup> inst  
I received a telegram from Gen  
Stedman at Savannah inviting me  
to join his party and accompany  
them on their tour through the Sea  
Islands of this State. I accepted  
the invitation and with them  
visited the Sea Islands then  
proceeding to Jacksonville Fla by Boat  
where we took the Cars to Tallahassee  
coming back via Pensacola & Savannah  
to this City. I feel quite safe in  
assuring you that the Commission will  
make a favorable report of the  
operations of the Bureau in Florida  
and this State. They will also  
speak well of Gen Scott but  
will censure some few of his  
subordinates. The Commission seemed  
much pleased with the condition



of things on the Sea Islands of  
this State. Genl Steedman said to  
me that they were at least 100 per  
cent better off than any of the  
Sea Islands south of this State. The  
statements in the Savannah papers  
about the interviews between Genl S. F.  
and the Citizens are mostly false. I  
secured their correction ~~of these~~ to some  
~~of~~ extent - see the enclosed clip  
from the Savannah News & Herald. Genl  
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, his  
own Dept. I am impressed with  
the belief that Genl S. F. means  
to tell the truth without fear or  
malice and as a whole I  
don't think it will do any harm  
to the Bureau or to you personally.  
I take it for granted the  
reports in the newspapers about you



asking to be relieved or meditating  
 a resignation of your position as Com<sup>r</sup>  
 are all false. Don't think of such a  
 step. Stand by the cause, I ~~will~~ know  
 you will come out all right. It has  
 been intimated to me that Fiske  
 wants your place. He dares know  
 enough to fill the position and besides,  
 Entre Nous, I fear he is insincere  
 and hypocritical. Pray do not subject  
~~the~~ your ~~self~~ to the mortification of seeing under  
 such a man by resigning your  
 place. The misconduct of the Agents  
 of the Bureau here and there cannot,  
 and will not be charged to you.

I am gratified with having the  
 military command of the State. It  
 will enable me more fully and  
 completely to carry your orders into  
 effect. Please excuse my penmanship,  
 I have a lame hand. The papers  
 say Congress will call upon the  
 President for information as to whether or  
 not any officers have been engaged in showing



intending to hit Genl Brannan & myself  
hard to the Confederate dead. & I hope it  
may be done - I would like an opportunity  
to reply. Please excuse me for calling  
attention to my request for authority to  
purchase a Newpor Sail Boat  
for the use of an office of the  
Bureau, <sup>to be</sup> situated at Brunswick. I  
have not received your answer. Genl  
St F agrees with me as to the necessity  
for such a boat and the service it  
could render -

I am Yours Truly  
Davis Tillson  
Prot May 2nd 1864

Major Genl Howard  
Comd Bureau R. F. & L  
Washington D.C.



Washington, 93  
May 30, 1866

Gen O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I called on you the other day about a matter which demanded prompt attention. You were reported "not in" when my name was sent up, but I heard from another you were in at the time. I then left my papers, 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 yet been able



to feel I am, & though I have  
written I am on other occasions  
I have never had the favor  
of an answer save in one  
instance. I have had no  
difficulty in transacting bu-  
siness in other Bureaus  
of the War Department  
& have always been treated  
respectfully, & am sorry that  
owing to some cause or  
other my experience is so  
peculiar with I am.

I wonder whose fault it  
is?

Very respectfully  
Geo. W. Julian



Raleigh May 30. 1866

Dear General

91

We are at a great loss to know what is going on in relation to our case. Having been relieved by order of the Sec'y of War, & assigned to no duty, & 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, & 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 N. Y. Herald is very anxious that you should resign. I trust you will not do it. The Bureau will live & be useful. Though my official connection with it is probably closed I shall cease to feel an



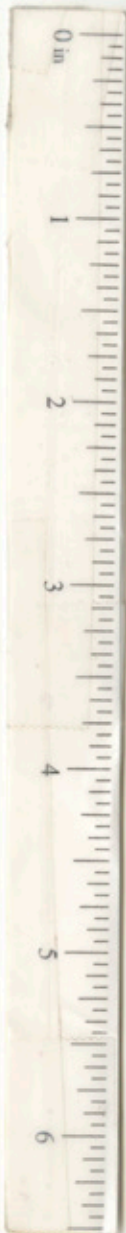
interest in its prosperity. I trust  
you will hold on, and weather this  
storm, whatever may be done with  
some of your subordinates for their  
"misconduct."

Yours Very Truly  
C. Phillips

Phillips, Dr.  
Bristol,

Concerning the  
"situation".

Recd. June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1864.





Boston May 20. '66

My dear Gen -

I have a few moments to say briefly something of our journey thither and of our doings on this first day of our work -

As we left W. without any plan of operation Thompson and I spent a good part of Tuesday in constructing a scheme of labor, so that we might be ready at once on reaching B. to unfold 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 5½ o'clock on dinner time this eve, and had then

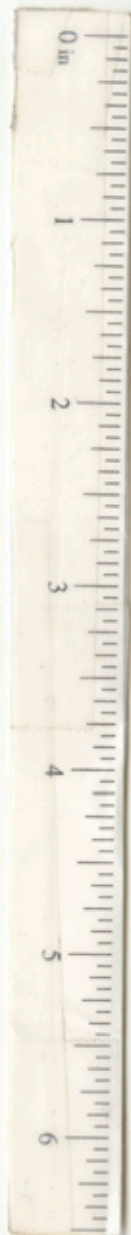


the result of fair program to  
encourage me, as you will  
see by what I say hereafter.

We met our old friend Dea  
Palmer at this prayer meeting  
who greeted us cordially &  
kindly introduced us to sev-  
-al good brethren - Then we  
found Alford at the Tract Rooms  
who entered with animation  
into our work, introduced us to  
several persons, and gave us  
valuable & timely counsel -

Then our friend Langworthy  
gave us a cheerful welcome,  
and, though very busy in pre-  
paring for his meeting in behalf  
of the Cong. Library Building  
gave us a half hour of his  
valuable time for consultation.

We found Messrs Toboy and  
Hardy, after vain searches else-  
where, at the Cong. Lib. Meeting.





in the P.M.

96

After the Am. Missy  
at noon we found Webb, your  
Brother Roland, James & al.

At the Cong Lib. meeting  
in the P.M., the chairman Mr  
Tobey after speaking in most  
pleasant terms of the regret  
retained by reason of your  
absence, said that two brethren  
were present from the Church  
you H. had so deep an in-  
terest in, and then unan-  
-ced that Thompson would  
address the meeting!! Notwith-  
standing this sudden & unex-  
-pected move T. 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  
& well wishers of our cause



is discuss plans and arrange plans for the summer campaign -

The demand for you, the increasing remark, "and how if you want to raise money" has led us to give some arrangement that you might come on for one day before the middle of June -

We shall accomplish practically all our work soon as we have this meeting well ended - but intend visiting Andover Thurs. Somerville, Boston Hartford &c before our return.

It may be best to make no further talk with Mr Coan at present as we have another man in view - of which more on our return  
truly yours friend Deane



Washington May 30/66

My Genl O.C. 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 meet on any where my report  
which may go out on this subject =

If you cannot do this I shall be comp-  
elled to have the matter thoroughly in-  
-vestigated before an ecclesiastical tribu-  
nal as a last resort - Both myself and  
family have suffered greatly for the last  
year, and I have no doubt after the  
examination of the case you will come  
to the conclusion unjustly if not wickedly  
I go to Maine tomorrow my P.O. will be  
Gorham Me

Respectfully  
E. M. Jackson





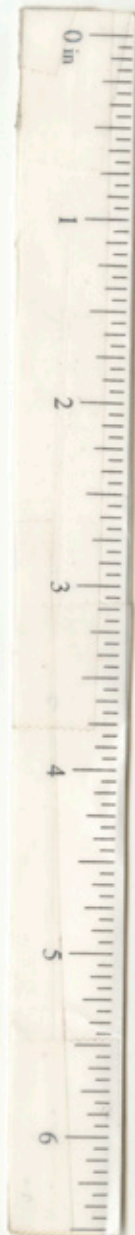


98  
Boston, Mass  
May 31. 1866

My dear Gen. I add this  
line to yesterday's to  
advise you of the suc-  
-cess that seems to attend  
us in our good mis-  
-sion -

At the prayer meeting  
this morning I had an  
opportunity to say a  
word - and Dr Chicker-  
-ing catching up the  
strain told who I was.  
At the close of the meet-  
-ing Dr. Kirk. made fur-  
-ther remarks in like spirit  
with Dr C. and conclu-  
-ded by inviting those in-  
-terested in our cause

We expect to be in W. by Tuesday next -





to remain after the  
meeting to hear from  
the Washington brethren.

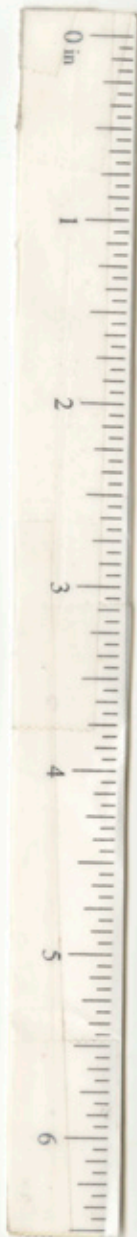
This opportunity was more  
than we had expected.  
We had hoped to meet a  
few business men for  
consultation - but no la-  
-ger assemblage -

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 Alford  
made good speeches -

Our audience was not  
large, and yet we trust  
we have struck a note  
that won't cease sounding.

The day has been spent  
in going about hither and





think upon general con-  
-sultations -

Our Efforts to find a  
good and capable agent  
have been wholly un-  
-successful thus far - I very  
much doubt if we shall  
find Mr. Coan the man  
for our work, and would  
suggest that <sup>with him</sup> no further  
negotiations be had until  
our return. Our friends  
here say our cause de-  
-mands a man of known  
position & capacity who  
can go before the public  
with a recognised repu-  
-tation - We have had  
no promise of such a  
man - but the suggestion  
has weight in my mind.  
We have about arranged



a public meeting for you  
on Sunday night June 10<sup>th</sup>

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  
for I have heard <sup>the remarks</sup> every where  
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 in my  
last, that we find warm &  
generous greeting on every hand  
and your friend L. Deane