LIBERTY NOT BOUNDED BY RACE OR COLOR.

SPEECH BY GENERAL HOWARD.

[From the Washington correspondence of the Boston Daily Advertiser, May 1.] 1866

An interesting exhibition was opened here this evening. It consists of nearly three hundred manuscripts written by soldiers and sailors who lost their right arms during the late war. About one-tenth of the manuscripts were contributed by Massachusetts men. All of them were quite legible, and many were exceedingly creditable specimens of penmanship. One of them was executed by a soldier who, having lost both arms, held his pen in his mouth. Prizes amounting to one thousand dollars have been awarded to twenty-eight of the contributors. General Banks presided this evening, and after making an introductory address, introduced successively Speaker Colfax, Major-General Howard, Brigadier-General Gates, and Governor Fairchild, of Wisconsin, each of whom made short and pertinent addresses. General Howard's remarks in regard to the present duties of the veterans of the war were rapturously applauded:

"As we stood steadfast in the field," said he, "so will we firmly adhere to our demand for a right settlement. Now is not the time for us to put our necks upon the ground and allow our enemies to put their heels upon them, and this conviction of ours comes from no political trick. It is the solemn conviction that we got upon the skirmish line. It was dinned into our ears by the cannon and the musket, and now that we have achieved the victory, we want the fruits of the victory. That man is a child who thinks we fought only for the Union. We fought for a homogeneous government, and we got it. We fought for American Liberty, not bounded by race or color."
Office of the Soldiers' Friend
No. 12 Centre St.
Mechlin, June 7, 1866.

Major Gen. G. Howard,

Dear Sir,

I thank you for your favor,

 enclosed enclaving subscription. The paper is sent as

 directed.

I relied upon the Washington register for a

 copy of your speech at the Left Armed Exhibition,

 and being occupied myself at the time with duties,

 did not address myself to the task of repeating. As

 the proceedings will make one of the features in the

 forthcoming Memorial Volume, it would be

 high treason to the Left-armed Looks to omit

 your speech. But I do not know how to sur

 face the default unless you will kindly step

 in and furnish me with a train of thought,

 which you can reproduce, to be published as

 "substantially" the remarks you made on

 the occasion. I would be glad to have it by

 the 20th of this month at the latest, for the July

 number of the Soldiers' Friend.
I want to send my paper to the regiment, station, and detachment of colored troops on duty, as well as to "white men." If one of your clerks could prepare me a list of officers or agents to whom I could forward perhaps of 10 or 20 copies monthly, it would be a great favor.

I am in a diminutive sense, the successor of the Christian Commission, but I am compelled to work my way, without the splendid contributions of the public. Some of our liberal men would highly contribute to supply 5000 per month to the Army—of the recommendation were made by responsible friends of the "boys in blue"—whether they be white or colored. I am doing what I can, and am grateful to you for your kind and generous sympathy and connivance.

In the hope that you will be able to spare a little time to the reproduction of your speech, I am very respectfully,

Your Obt. Svt.

Wm. Poland Bourne.
Augusta Ga June 7th 1866

General

Since the unfortunate occurrence which took place at our cemetery, I have conversed with many of the old and respected colored citizens, and I have not found the first one, but what regrets the whole affair, and further, they approve the course taken by General Bramham and yourself on that occasion. No one at that time believed that such great importance could have been given to so trifling an affair.

I am respectfully
Your Ob't Servant

St. Jacob A. Davis

General Davis Tillson

Augusta

Official

W W Dean

Capt Hall
Wilmington, N.C.,
June 7, 1866.

Mr. T. G. Elliot,
Dear Sir,

I wish to write a few words to you about the Freedman's Bureau here, as you are at times so interested in the subject. With all the good it has done, it is doing, it is nevertheless woefully crippled by defects in the working of the machine. One trouble here has been want of discipline in the office, things are at loose ends. Another is fickleness: orders one day, countermanded the next. Another trouble has been change of officers; we have expected a change somehow once in two weeks. Again, too often the incumbents have been unsuited to their position and work.

But enough of this.
The freedmen, wisely as I think, do earnestly uphold the Bureau & the officers, even if they see imperfect justice done by them, and many things that are blamable. Imperfect as it is, it is nevertheless the shield & defence of the weak, who otherwise would suffer a fearful oppression.

Now let me say a word of a more precise & definite kind. I sat by Col. Rutherford, in his office, & listened to the complaint of the persecuted freedmen. There were two yesterday from Duplin Co. Their horse had been stolen, their hogs killed, their trunks & houses robbed. Their hernia declared that no nigger should have a horse, a hog, or any stock. They told me it was thought that not less than 15,000 dollars had been stolen from the freedmen in Duplin & Wayne Co. They were themselves beaten with cruelty and compelled to flee for their lives.
and told that if they returned it would be to forfeit their lives. They implored aid & protection from the civil officers, but this was utterly refused. They came 70 miles to get redress of the Bureau. Col. Rutherford told me this was but a repetition of the same story morning, noon, night, day after day, till he was sick & disheartened, weary of a poor miserable show of power with no means to carry out any decision he might make. In another of these wise orders has come from headquarters to retreat, to reduce, to narrow the action of the Seamen. With nine counties to look after he is reduced to one clerk & one Lieutenant to act as quartermaster & everything else. And the rebels boast that soon they are to get rid of these damned Yankees, and then use to the negroes, who shall fare as they themselves choose.
If the Bureau is to be continued by a new organization, do if possible let it be clearly defined what are its powers, and let a system be introduced, that its rules need not be changed with every rising man. The present Superintendent, Col. RR, told me not to hesitate to use his name in regard to the unsatisfactory state of things. Things are getting worse, much worse, since the time of those inspectors sent out by the President to curtail the Bureau officers.

And now the mail is closing, and I must close.

With high respect,

Yours,

James Thurlow
New York, June 21st,

Hon. Gen. C. O. Howard,

Dear Sir,

On my return to this city from Washington, I stated to the Association your views in regard to Fernandina matters, and your instructions to rent a building till a suitable one could be erected at your expense, for an Academy. The Association to purchase a site.

To this proposition they were entirely favorable, as they are also to the intended educational interest at Chattahoochee. They desired a written statement, as order from you to secure them. On my return from Syracuse I did have heard me your letter
in which you say, "I think you had better rent a building until you can put up one." This seems to place the whole expense with the Association, which I judge to be a mistake from my recent interview with you, the result of which I have stated. The Association think with you that the influence would not be good in Florida, after having yielded their claim on the Vinegar estate for the sake of peace. It leave the state entirely, but think they cannot assume the additional expense of renting and building even though they will gladly do what they have hitherto done in sustaining the work there. The schools have been removed from all the Churches at Hernando and provision is to be made for the
also,

If you can give the Association the assurance of paying the rent and expenses of building for the asylum they will continue their patronage there, thereby I think they will advise immediate removal of the inmates of the Asylum at Charleston.

We have to remove from the urging place by the first of July, and I must return within a few days,

I shall await your answer with great interest, and hope you will favor with an immediate reply, that the action of the Association to which I serve may be in harmony with yours.

Sincerely and Respectfully,

Chloe Merrick.

16. John St.
New York.
New York June 7, 1861

Merrick Lois Chloe

Concerning the
Orphans Asylum at Fernandina.

Read June 9, 1861.
June 7/66

Maj. Gail Howard.

Dear Sir:—The experience
I have had in this state makes me
regret that I ever accepted the office of
superintendent of decorations of the Maine
rule, for I have found that I have not
half enough command over me for
the occasion! Not only am I not like
Gene Jackson “born to command,” but
I cannot fight like a good soldier for
the point that I really ought to carry
and so any resource has been like Folly
to consider “discretion the better part of
vuln” and abandon the field! Not one
of the distinctive features that I marked
out for Maine, was I able to carry out.

The tower and Andrew’s Fountaine, tended
by yeilding ladies of fine
temperance, with, who would have
dispersed the water and Maine Law
elegance. At the same time
the emblematic pine tree,
the mister—and several more.
matters were yielded by one, one by one, to preserve harmony.ilter other people have their way, until I considered it expedient to withdraw, and cease to work, when everything I did was undone as soon as I left, or before I returned. The result as it now stands of the Maine table is one for which I have not the slightest responsibility except that the gifts sent for my sake are there there--I am exceedingly sorry to make this report to you for I accepted the office hoping to make some result that would please you, and it was mainly because you asked it, that I tried hard to accomplish something--but when
I was told by others that my plans were "not acceptable to the majority and that the majority ought to rule." I did not feel like asserting my authority, so I preferred to go out with the mental reflection that even in the decorations of a "fair table" there might possibly be virtue in "military law." 

The matter which I had chosen was three times down, and the last time destroyed! By whom, no one seems to know. The lines are from Mrs. Barbauld: "Man is the other great to our soil supplied, and sows are reined mette these Northern shores."

When I showed it to Mr. Baker M. C. from Illinois, he said very deliberately, "That is good, very good. It embodies both the aspiration and the concept of New England." Perhaps some one thought it was too concise! To conclude this long note.
let me say again that I am very very sorry that I have troubled you so much, as you have, and that I cannot offer you one thing that agrees with any taste about the Wesley table, which, as you are well aware, I ought to be able to do, whether any taste would have been good or bad. But I will say that if you ever have anything for me to do that it is in my power to accomplish, then please to come and see me, and let me hope to make amends for my short comings now. I have felt unpleasantly to endure the whole thing, as I have been obliged to, but must I regret it as having failed the trust you put in me. Still I believe you would not have wished that in the matter I should have forced my will to the extent of discord and discomfort. Let me add, that of Capt. Grant, who has suffered like a Sufferer here, and suffered like a Christian martyr! For the fair, I have our complaint to make, and had I known he would have forced others to yield several points for me, rather than have one childbirth. This was that my paper leaves me only room to say that I am very truly and respectfully yours, No. 47. Pennsylvania.
Harlem, N.Y.
June 8th, 1866

General:

I enclosed yesterday a copy of my report to the Chamber of Commerce, State of New York. Ten thousand copies will be circulated among business men, commercial bodies. I hope the report will at least contribute to your strength and to the conviction that the Bureau, of which you are the principal, is simply the greatest necessity in the land, and as such, should be sustained by the good people of our country.

Respectfully,

[Signature]
Washington, D.C. 8th June 1866

Major General C. C. Howard
Commissioner of War

I have with me a report made by a Committee appointed by the Legislature of Kentucky, to ascertain the truth or falsity of the statements alleged to have been made by Major Gen. Clinton B. Fisk in an address to the people in
Cincinnati, Ohio, in regard to the improper, and inhuman treatment of Colored people, by White Citizens of Kentucky. Allow me to ask you impartial attention to this report, and if it is worthy of confidence, should not Genl. Hill be dismissed from office, and some gentleman be put in his place who will do justice to the people, without regard to race or color. Please answer this inquiry at your earliest convenience.

Your Obt. dut.

D.C. Ritter
West Point N.Y.
June 8, 1866

My dear Genl,
If you possess the knowledge will you be kind enough to inform me of the direction of Maj. Sampson who was a Capt in your Regiment when I served with you in the summer of '64.
With kind regards to Mrs. Howard & yourself
Yours very truly,
A Mordecai

Genl O.B. Howard
Washington, D.C.
Maryville, E. Tenn.
June 8, 1866.

Maj. Gen. Howard:

Dear Sir:

You will perhaps remember me, as having called on you in Washington last winter, to ask your advice in presenting a Claim in behalf of Maryville College for damages done by the Federal Army. For that nothing could be obtained I did not press it. We expect to open the College for instruction in Sept. with hoping by that time to have our buildings so improved that we can use them.

The College is under the control of the Synod of Tenn., which is in ecclesiastical connection with the New School Presbyterian Church in U. S. of America.

As a body we are loyal, patriotic & radical, with Congress against Johnson, not recognizing but organizing them into Churches & Schools, preaching to & teaching them to do all we can to elevate them. We meet with opposition and upbraiding from some, but public sentiment here is
Sustaining us. Antihuman, repugnant ideas are on the wave. I rejoice that this is so at least it may soon be the case throughout the South. But much yet remains to be done. Education & Circulation of the right kinds of reading matter are great instruments of regeneration in the South. Let our young men be led under the right kind of influence, and they will get right soon enough.

But I must not write a long letter.

I wish to get your name to one of the Circulars. I wish to let in Constantinople. I might have the use of your name in case I had it written. I wish you to sign and recommend to the object as you see fit and in your own language. I think your name will be of great service to me in presenting the claims of the Institution to the Christian world. The General Assembly that recently met in St. Louis Commanded our cause to sympathize aid of the Churches. The object, I know, meets your approbation. The Circular is a candid and truthful statement of facts. You will please return the one on which you sign my name with recommendation.

Most Respectfully,

Thos. J. Lamar.
Washington, D.C. June 8, 1866

Dear Mr. Balder

May I O'Thann,

Your letter of this date relating to Capt. Mr. Baldwin of Urbana Ohio is rec'd. I can & do recommend him fully. General, Helen he is one of the best & most reliable of young men & I hope you can comply with her request sent you yesterday by me to give him orders in a post position near here. Please refer to a former letter I sent you of this.

Respectfully,

A. Lawrence