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3608 6/7/1866

*From:* Wm Oland Bourne

*To:* Major Gen O O Howard

OOH-3556

*Source:* Bowdoin

Office of the Soldiers  
Friends,  
No 12 Center St.  
New York

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[113, 114]

Office of the Soldiers Friends,  
No 12 Center St.  
New York, June 7, 1866.

Major Gen O O Howard,  
Dear Sir,

I thank you for your favor received enclosing subscription. The paper is sent as directed.

I relied upon the Washington reporters for a report of your speech at the Left Hand Exhibition, and being occupied myself at the time with duties did not address myself to the work of reporting. As the proceedings will make one of the features in the forth coming Memorial Volume, it would be high treason to the Left-Armed Corps to omit your speech. But I do not know how to supply 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 Soldier's Friend.

I want to send my paper to the regiments, garrisons, and detachments 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 packages 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 willingly contribute to supply say 5000 copies per month, to the Army -if the recommendation were made by responsible friends of the "boys in blue" - no matter whether they be white or colored. I am doing what I can, and am grateful to you for your kind and generous sympathy and countenance.

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 Oland Bourne

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

New York, June 7, 1866

Bourne, Orland H.

Desires a copy of Gen. Howard's speech before the S. & S. Left-handed fair.

Recd June 8th 1866

[The following newspaper article was attached.]

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.”

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3609 6/7/1866

*From:* Jacob R. Davis

*To:* General Davis Tillson

OOH-3557

Augusta Ga

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[121, 122]

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 Brannan 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 Obt Servant  
(Sd) Jacob R. Davis

General Davis Tillson  
Augusta

Official [written in red ink]  
W.W. Deane  
Capt & A.A.G. [written in red ink]

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

State of Georgia  
Richmond County

Personally appeared Jacob R Davis who after being duly sworn deposeth and saith that the within statement is true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(Sd) Jacob R. Davis.

Subscribed and  
Sworn to before me  
this 9th June 1866  
(Sd) David L Roath

Not. Pub. R.C. Ga  
Official [written in red ink]  
W W. Deane  
Capt & A.A.G. [Written in red ink]

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3610 6/7/1866

*From:* James Thurston

*To:* Hon. J.G. Eliot

OOH-3558

Wilmington, N.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[125, 126]

Wilmington, N.C.  
June 7, 1866.

Hon. J.G. Eliot,  
Dear Sir,

I wish to write a few words to you about the Freedman's Bureau here, as you are ab initio so interested in the subject. With all the good it has done, & is doing, it is nevertheless woefully crippled by defects in the working of the machine. One trouble here has been want of system 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 & 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 shields & defences 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 complaints of the poor persecuted Freedmen. There were two yesterday from Duplin Co. Their horses had been stolen, their hogs killed, then trunks & houses robbed. Their persecutions declared that no nigger should have a horse, or a hog, or any stock. They told me it was thought that not less than 15000 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 sham of power with no means to carry out any decision he might make. For another of these wise orders has come from Head quarters to retrench, to reduce, to narrow the action of the Bureau. 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 woe to the niggers, 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 changes with every rising Sun. The present Superintendent, Col. R. 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 work of those inspectors sent out by the President to curse the Bureau officers. And now the mail is closing and I must close.

With high respect  
Yours  
James Thurston

[Written sideways at the bottom of the last page, in a different hand.]  
Respectfully referred to Maj. Gen OO Howard  
T.D. Eliot

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3611 6/7/1866

*From:* Chloe Merrick

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

OOH-3559

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[127, 128]

New York June 7th / 66

Maj. Gen. O.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 Asylum. 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, or order from you to secure them.

On my return from Syracuse to day Mr. Shaw handed me your letter in which you say " 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 Finegan estate for the sake of peace, to leave the State entirely, but think they cannot assume the additional expense of renting and building 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 Fernandina and provision is to be made for them also.

If you can give the Association the assurance of paying the rent and expense of building for the Asylum they will continue their patronage there, otherwise I think they will advise immediate removal of the inmates of the Fernandina Asylum to Charleston.

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

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

Truly and Respectfully  
Chloe Merrick

76 John St.  
New York

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]  
New York June 7, 1866  
Merrick, Miss Chloe  
Concerning the Orphan Asylum at Fernandina

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3612 6/7/1866

*From:* H C Ingersoll

*To:* Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-3560

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[129, 130]

June 7 / 66

Maj Genl Howard -  
Dear Sir -

The experience I have had in this Fair makes me regret that I ever accepted the office of superintendent of decorations of the Maine table, for I found that I had not half enough combativeness in 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 my resource has been like Falstaff to consider "discretion the better part of valor", and abandon the field! Not one of the distinctive features that I marked for Maine, was I able to carry out. The bower, and Undine's Fountain, tended by Undines represented by young ladies of firm temperance faith, who would have dispensed ice water and Maine Law eloquence at the same time –the emblematic pine trees – the motto - and several other matters were yielded by me, one by one, to preserve harmony – (or to let other people have their way) until I considered it expedient to withdraw, and cease to work, when every thing 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 still 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 pleas were "tot acceptable to the majority and that the majority ought to rule". I did not feel like asserting my authority. I preferred to go out, with the mental reflection that even in the decorations of a Fair table, there might possibly be visited in military law!!

The motto which I had chosen and spent a day in making was quite taken down, and the last time destroyed! By whom, no one seems to know. The lines were from Mrs [Anna Laetitia] Barbauld

"Man is the nobler growth our soil supplies,  
"And souls are ripened 'neath these Northern skies.

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 conceit, of New England"! Perhaps some one thought it was too conceited!

To conclude this long note let my say again that I am very, very sorry that I have troubled you so much, in vain, and that I cannot offer yo one thing that reflects my taste about the Maine table, which as you appointed me, I ought to be able to do, whether my taste would have been good or bad. But I will say, that if you ever have any thing for me to do, that it is in my power to accomplish, then please to command 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 too, but most I regret it as having failed the trust you put in me. Still I believe you wold not have wished that in the matter I should have forced my will to the extent of discord and discomfort.

Let me add, that if Capt Grant, who has worked like a Trojan hero, and suffered like a Christian martyr! for the Fair, I have no complaint to make, and had I chosen, he would have forced others to yield several points to me – rather than have me withdrawn.

It is well that my paper leaves me only room to say that I am, very truly and respectfully yours.

H C Ingersoll

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3613 6/8/1866      *From:* Thomas W. Conway      *To:* General [OO Howard]

OOH-3561

Harlem N.Y.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[131]

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 &c. I hope the report will at last 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 &c  
Thomas W. Conway

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3614 6/8/1866

*From:* B.C. Ritter

*To:* Major General O.O.  
Howard

OOH-3562

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives  
Washington D.C.

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[132]

[Letterhead, including an engraving of the U.S. Capitol]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.  
House of Representatives  
Washington D.C.  
8th June 1866

Major General O.O. Howard  
Commissioner &c  
Dr Sir

I herewith inclose to you 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 GnI. 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 your impartial attention to this report, and if it is worthy of confidence. Should not GenI. Fisk 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 Srvt

B.C. Ritter [Burwell Clark Ritter, U.S. Representative from Kentucky, 1865-66.]



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3615 6/8/1866

*From:* A Mordecai

*To:* Genl OO Howard

OOH-3563

West Point NY  
June 8th 1866

Washington D.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[139]

West Point NY  
June 8th 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 /61.

With kind regards to Mrs Howard & yourself

Yours very truly  
A Mordecai [Alfred Mordecai, USMA Class of 1861]

Genl OO Howard  
Washington D.C.

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3616 6/8/1866

*From:* Thos. J. Lamax

*To:* Maj. Gen. [OO] Howard

OOH-3564

Maryville, E. Tenn.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[133]

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. next, hoping by that time to have our buildings so repaired 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 Ch in U.S. of America. As a body we are loyal, patriotic & radical, with Congress & against Johnson, not negro-hating, but organizing them into churches & sabbath schools, preaching to & teaching them & doing all we can to elevate them. We meet with opposition and reproach from some, but public sentiment here is sustaining us. Antihuman, negro-hating ideas are on the wane. I rejoice that this is so & trust it may soon be the case throughout the South. But much yet remains to be done. Education & circulation of the right kind of reading matter are great instruments of regeneration in the South. Let our young men be bro't under the right kind of Instructors, and they will get right sooner or later.

But I must not write a long letter.

I wish to get your name to one of these circulars. You told me last winter I might have the use of your name in case I had it reprinted. I wish you to give me a recommendation 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 public. The General Assembly that recently met in St. Louis commands our cause to sympathy & 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 give me your name & recommendation.

Most Respectfully yrs  
Thos. J. Lamax

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3617 6/8/1866

*From:* Wm Lawrence

*To:* Major Gen O O Howard

OOH-3565

*Source:* Bowdoin

Thirty-Ninth Congress,  
U.S.  
House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D.C.

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[134]

[Letterhead, including a graphic of the U.S. Capitol]

Thirty-Ninth Congress, U.S.

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C.

8 June 1866

Major Gen O O Howard

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

Respectfy

Wm Lawrence [U.S. Representative from Ohio, 1865-1870, 1872-1876]