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3635 6/15/1866     *From:* James C Bucher

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3583a

Hartford Conn.

Com'r B.R.& F.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[158, 159]

Hartford Conn.  
June 15th 1866.

Maj Gen O.O. Howard  
Com'r B.R.& F.  
General

I respectfully forward herewith copy of communication and endorsements to which I referred in conversation with yourself on Wednesday last. I am obliged to believe that the Officials in the Bureau at Charleston were quite aware of the facts in the case.

I am preparing a communication to yourself respecting Bureau Affairs in So. Carolina, and the present news of the freed people. I prefer this course for the present, to published articles, since it is possible that any suggestion tending to increase the efficiency of the Bureau, may be taken as an attack upon it. I make no claim to extra sagacity but could not work for a year & more, without gaining some practical knowledge. The Commissioner at Charleston is welcome to the credit of my work, but since he hindered it all he could and upon the islands actually prevented its full accomplishment I cannot be supposed to favor a policy even more damaging to the freed people than to the whites.

With sincere regard for yourself and heart interest in all that tends to make independent men and women of the freed people

I am yours very truly  
James C Bucher  
Bt Brig Gen Late Col 35th U.S.C.T.

[See OOH-3583b, dated 31 Aug 1865, for the copy of communications and endorsements.]

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2894 8/31/1865     *From:* James C Bucher

*To:* Bvt Maj Gen R. Saxton

OOH-3583b

Hd Qrs 2nd Sub Dist  
M.D.C.  
Summerville S.C.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[This letter was enclosed in OOH-3583a, dated 15 June 1866.]

[159]  
Copy

Hd Qrs 2nd Sub Dist M.D.C.  
Summerville S.C.  
August 31st, 1866 (i.e. 1865)

Bvt Maj Gen R. Saxton  
Genl,

In order to make report from my command it is of course necessary that I have reports from the agents of R&F B on Edisto, Johns and Wadmalaw Islands. Also from any one claiming to act under the Bureau on the Main land.

My order for such reports is not complied with by any of these agents.

In any other case I shd simply arrest the parties for disobedience of orders and expel them from the Dist. As it is I respectfully suggest that an order be issued to these men to report as ordered so that I may know what they are about & be able to report accordingly.

Very respy yr obt servt  
James C Bucher Col Comdg

[Summary of the copied letter written sideways on the left third of the back page, in a different hand.]

Hd Qrs <2nd Sub Dist M.D.C.[CHECK ORIGINAL –hidden by discoloration at right of page]  
Summerville S.C.

Aug 31st

Bucher Jas. C.

Col 35th U.S.C.T.

Comg 2nd Sub Dist & Sub Asst Comr

Respectfully requests that the Agents of B.R. & F in this Dist. may be ordered to report.

COPY

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

<[CHECK ORIGINAL –two lines or more hidden by discoloration on right of page.]

Bureau Refugees Freedmen & Abandoned Lands

So. Carolina Georgia & Florida

Beaufort S.C. Sept 5th 1866

[Written in red ink] E.B.73 Asst Com'r B.R.&F. Bft

[Written in red ink] J.B."B.R.F&A.I Bft 65

Resp'y ret'd to Col Bucher. The Agents on Edisto, Johns and Wadmalaw Islands are not under Col Buchers jurisdiction. To all others in Col Buchers vicinity orders will be issued to report as desired. Enclosed is copy of Gen Shermans field order for information.

By order of

Bt Maj Gen Saxton

(signed) Stewart M <Gayhr>

[Written in red ink] Recd A.A.G.O BR&AL Sept 21st 1865

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3636 6/15/1866 *From:* C.C. Coffin

*To:* Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3584

Boston 749 Tremont St

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[161, 162]

Boston 749 Tremont St  
June 15th 1866

Maj Gen Howard  
Dear Sir

Please accept this accompanying volume entitled Four years of fighting - not a history but a volume mainly of personal observations. I have endeavored to place Chancellorsville in its true light, also Gettysburg.

I shall esteem it a great favor if you will inform me of an errors, that I may correct them in future editions.

I have given many incidents which have neevr been in print, & have endeavored to make it a volume which will keep alive the fires of patriotism in the hearts of the people.

If, after turning it over you can conscientiously commend it as worthy of a place in the <foes?> houses & work shops of the land, I shall be happy to receive a line to that effect as it will be of much pecuniary benefit.

Allow me to express my thanks for the many courtesys I have received at your hands.

With many regards  
yours truly  
C.C. Coffin

Maj Gen O.O. Howard

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

Boston Mass  
June 15th 1866  
Coffin C.C.  
Transmitting a Book entitled Four Years of Fighting

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3637 6/15/1866

*From:* John Fuller  
Chmn Lect Com  
Oswego

*To:* Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Wash'n D.C.

OOH-3585

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[165]

Oswego June 15 / 66

Dear Sir

Can you lecture before the Young Mens Library Association of Oswego the coming season. If so will you please write me that you will come and your terms. If convenient you can name subject and a day you will positively be here or we will leave the date and subject for further settlement. Our society and citizens generally would be very much pleased to hear you.

Respectfully Yours  
John Fuller  
Chmn Lect Com

Maj. Genl. O.O. Howard  
Wash'n D.C.

[Enclosure]

1866 1867

Young Men's Library Association  
Oswego, N.Y.

Wm. M McNall, - President,  
C.P. Meads, - Vice President  
J. Irving Weed, - Secretary  
R.S. Myrick, - Treasurer  
A. Leonard, - Librarian

Standing Committees

Lectures.

J. Fuller, C.B. Sloan, H.F. Willis, A.S. Smith, S.B. Burchard.

Rules & Regulations.

J.C. Churchill, J. Owen, Omer Leyns.

Ways and Means.

S.M. Allen, N.M. Rowe, L.E. Goulding.

Rooms & Library.

J.R. Pierce, W.W. Rope, Wm. Cartwright.

Literary Exercises.

B.E. Wells, J.H. Coe, W.H. Gardinier.

Music.

G.I. North, B.E. Wells, C.H. Gaylord.

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3639 6/16/1866

*From:* A Toomer Porter

*To:* Gen OO Howard

OOH-3586

New York

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[166, 167]

Copy  
Treasury Department  
June 15 1866

Sir

You are hereby instructed to sell the US Maine Hospital building and lot in Charleston SC at public auction to the highest bidder, subject to the acceptance of the bid by the Secretary of the Treasury upon the following terms viz one thousand dollars cash the balance in equal payments of 30, 60 and 90 days. A certificate of sale will be given at the time to the purchaser and a deed upon the completion of the terms of sale and the final payment. You will please insert the enclosed advertisement in such Charleston papers as you may deem desirable for 30 days. Immediately upon the sale you will please inform the Department in relative to it, giving your opinion as to the price and competition & making any suggestion you may deem proper. The object of the Department in reserving the right to accept or reject any bid is to prevent any combination by which the property may be sacrificed, & will not be exercised if the sale is a fair one. In deciding which the Dept must of course rely upon you report.

Should you be of the opinion, that this provision will have a tendency to injure the sale you will advise me without delay.

Very Respectfully  
(signed) H McCulloch  
Sec of the Treas.

AG Mackey Esq  
Collector of Customs  
Charleston SC

New York June 16 1866

Gen OO Howard  
My dear Genl,

Above I send you a copy of the instructions which the Dept has kindly furnished me with. A friend here has authorised me to <lay> to the building while we make efforts to raise the money. I am sorry the Sec has put in the restriction as I fear it will give the impression of not a Bona fide sale & cause a want of interest in the matter. He does not know me, & I see does not fully trust me. I can pledge the truth of my Christian character that we will form no combination with any one. We will go to the sale & take our chances. We expect it to sell for little or nothing & could not buy it if it does not. I mean compared with its cost. I concealed nothing from the Sec. I am persuaded it will not go high & the Collector will advise it is a bad time to sell & not to take the bid. He is not of the mould of men who can rise to the occasion. I thought both the Sec & Pres felt the moral gain made the material a mere question. If there is any hitch wont you help us to unloose it. I send you Mr Merricks reply. As you know I could give a favorable reply but cannot as agent of the Episcopal Ch myself make application officially to a Genl board as it would be bad taste. I have written him if Episcopalians individually can use their influence to get an appropriation that is all well. If you would take so much trouble - a line from you to Dr Mackey might put him on the right track. I assure you Genl there is no speculative or selfish end in this but for the Glory of God, the good of the Freedmen & the peace of the Country.

I am yours very truly  
A Toomer Porter  
My address is, 132 Pearl St Care Mr H M LeCount

[Newspaper clipping attached.]

(Communicated)

#### THE PEOPLE OF BUTLER COUNTY.

Respect for the advice of those whom I know to be my sincere friends, alone induce me to make this explanation; for in the discharge of what I believe my duty, and I assume no duty that I have not well considered, I ask no popularity, and fear no influences. I respect that popularity which is based upon truth, and a scrupulous love of justice; but I hold it in contempt, when it is founded upon the arts of the demagogue, who never takes a stand till he finds out how it will do in public opinions; who twists, and turns, and doubts and hesitates, and consults his grandfather and first cousins to know whether it will affect his prospective elevation, and his official hopes.

I was honored some time since with the request, to ascertain and report upon the cases of proper subjects for the benevolence of Government, in the way of rations. The duty has been an unpopular one; and required great trouble and firmness. It is impossible for any human being to attain a standard of excellence in anything in this life; but I have as faithfully traced the path of impartiality, as was possible. My principle has been to keep the charities of the United States in a proper channel. I have always thought that this dispensation tended to nourish a spirit of indolence and licentiousness; and believe that the very best boon, that could have been conferred upon the people, would have been, never to have dispensed rations at all. Self-reliance is better than port and beans, and begging, begun in the case of temporary destitution, degenerates into a habit of perpetual bondage and degradation. Still, I have tried, diligently, to do what was strictly just, and recommend the really destitute, without regard to sex, character, age, or color. Yet, with all my care, the officers of the Bureau, and myself, are frequently deceived. But I deny that, in any case, except deceived, rations have been recommended, where a person was able to work or had employment. Notwithstanding all this, I am beset, on every hand, with all the misrepresentations, that stupidity and perverseness can engender. One furious patriot assails me in my office, for daring to give rations, out of his taxes, to a crippled negro, eighty years of age; a strong minded woman tells me the officers of the Bureau and I, have pilfered, as she "s creditably informed," two thousand gold dollars, out of the commissary meal barrels!

What interest is it to me? Does any one with a scruple of reflection, suppose that anything but public-spirit could induce me to hold a position, that brings me no pay; that gives me no opportunity to steal; that takes half my time, that requires the patience of Job, and that keeps me constantly struggling against a strong current of unpopularity and abuse? If I am asked why I retain the position, I answer, because I have a stubborn determination to perform what I believe my duty the more men revile and vituperate.

I now desire to inform the people of the consequences of drawing rations. The Legislature of Alabama, by act of last session, makes it the duty of every public officer, to report to the Probate Judges, the cases of all children, under eighteen, who either are orphans, without visible means of support, or the children of parents who cannot, or will not support them; and it is made the imperative duty of the Probate Judges, to bind them out. Now when a person draws rations, it is an admission, that the parties are not able to support their children; and they must expect those facts to be reported as evidence against them.

I admit the calamity which has fallen upon the people; but the destitution of the country has been grossly exaggerated by those who love to suck at the public teats, and who go about fomenting discontents, and who find that running to and fro, and inflating their checks to puff out pretty things about charity and the hungry poor, are good easy stepping stones to public office.

I pray the people to cease crawling to the Freedmen's Bureau for charity. The stream of private benevolence will never run dry. No one will be allowed to starve in this country, and contempt, with independence, than to fatten upon the bounty which brings humiliation and shame.

Benj. F. Porter.  
Greenville, Ala., June 19, 1866.

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3625 6/12/1866      *From:* S.V Merrick

*To:* Rev'd A. T. Porter

OOH-3587

Philad

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[168, 169]

Rev'd A. T. Porter  
Dear Sir

I have been in the city yesterday & today, relative to your proposition . I find the best disposition towards it, and nothing <laconting>, but the <machinery> to reap the crop. After consulting Mr Walsh I applied to the Freedmens Aid to take the matter in hand as it requires some organization. Yesterday I had the matter before them and while the members generally proposed aid it was thought improper or impolitic on them, as a general association to prominently step forward in aid of a sectarian movement. I urged that on the contrary that every sectarian movement ought to be helped because while forwarding the purpose they had in view education of the black . They would be relieved of so much permanent work. I think that this view fairly set before them would prevail as I know them to be gentlemen of intelligence and of expanded <[CHECK ORIGINAL tape on page 2]>.

Their declination was not to be wondered at as the subject was now with only Gen Howards letter before them and no one to explain your views & proposal and only a <> explanation in general terms from me to their Secretary. They meet on Monday ad their office 424 Walnut at 3 P.M. and I think if you can spare time on that day & <come> to see them & give such explanation as may be proper they will take the matter up seriously.

I enclose a note to the Sec'y Freedmens aid & <[CHECK ORIGINAL - TAPE]> of New York, whom you had better see before you come on & show Gen Howards letter which I enclose. If you obtain an introduction to Dr Tyng he can aid you.

One point made by the Secy F. Aid was, said they employ southern teachers or solely southern. To this I replied that you were indifferent where the teachers came from if they <> an often more serious. You should be prepared to answer.

Are the blacks to be educated with or according to southern ideas.

This means - is the doctrine to be inculcated that the blacks are an inferior race to be kept under servility or do you mean to gain them a good plain education and let their status be fixed or settled by the measure of intellect which the almighty has vouchsafed to each individual. The first condition of this idea will not meet much sympathy here as we think it is the province of God and not of man to assign the social, moral & intellectual position of all his creatures. Tho' I did not put the question directly I hedged from the general liberation of you conversation that we agreed on this point. But you must be prepared to meet it. You can not expect us to furnish all you want & therefore it would be well to lay your terms in N York & Boston.

Our people have been <heavily> <drawn> <upon> to meet southern <success> for whom there is much sympathy – but purses are gradually closing under the feeling of hostility, indicated by the press of the South cited the anti-american sentiments which so generally prevails in the lately rebellious states.

I wish you would return General Howards letter after providing yourself with a copy which may be <[CHECK ORIGINAL]> by some known name (as enc)

Respy  
S.V Merrick  
Philad 12 June 66

It would be wise and publicly to announce your view of purchasing the Maine Hospital as some antagonist interest may bid it up - but say some large building.

Office of Freedmen's Aid Society, Back room 424 Walnut, Ground floor. Send card in to the Secretary on <1st> Parrish, who will be there soon after 3 o'clock PM, Monday.

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3638 6/15/1866

*From:* John H. Aughey

*To:* Major Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-3589

Livonia Washington Co  
Ind.

*Source:* Bowdoin

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[171, 172]

Livonia Washington Co Ind.  
June 15th 66

Major Gen O.O. Howard  
Dear Sir

I am very thankful to you for the kind letter in regard to Gen. Kimball which you were pleased to send me. The life and services of Gen Kim will soon appear.

Please accept a copy of my work the Iron Furnace &c which I send you by this mail. I enclose a testimonial from Gen Kimball which vouches for my loyalty &c. In consequence of my adherence to the Government I was compelled to escape from Central Miss. My goods I boxed up and sent to Goodman Depot on the Miss. Central R.R. in Holmes Co. Miss. After my departure and as soon as it became known that my goods were at Goodman two elders of my church went to convict me and seize my goods and sold them at auction. What they did with the money I know not. I suppose that they paid a part to the Rebel Government and retained the remainder. My library was worth 1500\$. They sold my wife's clothing as well as mine. My churches owed my 6 or 7 hundred dollars besides. My house I sold since the war but they are determined that I shall lose it. I had the deed recorded but upon examination the record does not appear. It is doubtless cut out or erased and the deed was with my papers which my elders seized and is perhaps destroyed. My life would be in jeopardy were I to go down to Miss to attend to the matter and the expense would be great. From affluence I am reduced to poverty, while my elders here create money by their course.

Would you be so kind as to inform me whether I can obtain redress through you as Com. of Refugees &c. I would not trouble you but I know not whom else to secure a part of the property of which the secessionists have robbed me.

Yours truly  
John H. Aughey  
Livonia  
Washington Co.  
Ind.