Bureau of Refugees Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

Office of General Superintendent For Eastern Arkansas.

HELENA, ARKANSAS, June 19th 1866

137

Hon. S. C. Pomeroy.
U.S. Senator.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir.

I am exceedingly sorry to trouble you with my private affairs, knowing the many and arduous duties of your high station, but some base and malicious false reports have been sent to Major Genl. O.O. Howard regarding my conduct both morally and officially, by some person to me unknown, but with the evident intention of getting me out of office, and placing some friend of theirs in it.

Major Genl. J.W. Sprague has been here during the past few days having a full and public investigation and has taken the depositions of nearly twenty persons both leading Union men, & Federal Officers, and Colored men, all of whom testified in the same spirit and to the same effect as expressed in the enclosed letter of the Assn.

J. M. Hanks, Judge of the 1st Judicial District of Arkansas.

I ask you dear Sir, as the powerful friend of the oppressed, and as a matter of the very greatest personal favor, if you could conveniently and without giving yourself too much trouble, to let Major General Howard see the testimonials which I have forwarded you at various times, from our old Army Officers and others.

I feel very sensitive my dear Sir, about the matter, as I value my reputation as an old Soldier should, having served our Government and country faithfully and honestly for twelve long years, without being censured once, and during the past eighteen months labored hard in the cause of humanity and justice.

I presume Major Genl. Sprague will make a report of his investigation to Genl. Howard giving the testimony adduced, which will prove that the confidence of my superiors has not been misplaced.

As you promised to be friend me I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject. Respectfully asking you to

return me Judge Hawk's letter after you have used it, as I prize such testimonials and desire to keep them.

I remain Dear Sir

Your Respectfully & obt. Servt.

H. Sweeney

Capt. 60th. Reg. C.S. &

Cieut. Supt. R. F. & L.

Helena Ark
June 19th 66

Sweeny H
Capt Genl Supt.
Bureau R.F.&A.L.

Frowell Hayne

Concerning malicious charges against him by some person unknown

Referred to Maj Genl Howard –

The writer so far as I know – or have now heard is all right – I cannot believe any well grounded charges can be made against him

I am

S. C. Pomeroy

Office of The Tribune,

Raleigh N.C.
~~New York~~, June 19 — 1866

Maj. Genl O. O. Howard

Washington
D.C.

190

Dear Sir,

We anxiously await the forming of the Court Martial; and, the rumors that Genl Turner will not come reach us with doleful sentiment.

Perhaps it is not inopportune that I suggest that Genl Ruger is rather a bad selection for Pres: or even a member of the court as I am inclined to believe Genl W. will wish his testimony on his defence, and besides I know him to have a decided personal dislike and prejudice towards Chaplin Eliot from his remarks to me last summer while here relative to a Tribune letter from Leesburgh. No doubt the Administration propose to crowd the evidence for prosecution and take every means of conviction even by sophistry: hence a fair and unprejudiced court is all that wanted. hence the propriety of perhaps suggesting the change.

I dont desire you to infer I wish to garble the facts to a "radical view" I intend as my employers desire to give impartial, clear definite facts. hence as one of the means through whose the people will form its opinions I trust to stash in the work rising up Bureau affairs with correct auspices.

I make the suggestion in all candor.

The union men are taking fresh inspiration and life anew since Senator Saunders report, and are now happy in the expectation comes will relieve the pressure that the over lenient policy of the President has placed them under. If only true union men on every hand could get the government patronage what a blessing it would be to promote the healthy belief our country cares for its adherents. but unfortunately special agents & clerk pander and hob nob with rebels & water influence into at last drove into the vortex of rebellious associations who drain them of all influence. Why should we find men nominally who cannot take the oath respectfully offers & your obt servt

Alex. M. Davis.

Raleigh N.C. June 19th 1866

Davis. Alex. H.

Gives his views of affairs in North Carolina.

Recd. June 21. 1866

Washington. June 19th 1866

192

Major General Howard.

Sir.

Permit me to state, that I have ascertained from Rev Mr Fox, who has been over the road, that Oxford is but fourteen miles from a station on the Baltimore & Phil.a R.R. called "Nush-East". Leaving here on Thursday morning at 7½ you would reach Nush East at about 11 o'clk & Lincoln University at one: Mr Fox says he has often made the trip in an hour & a half.

If time permit, the Secretary of the Board of Education will try to make arrangements for a carriage from Oxford to be at the Nush East depot, on Thursday morning. If he succeeds, will telegraph you to that effect. If he fails, they still hope, you may find it convenient to be present, as he

states it has been announced in all the religious papers that you would be there, and your presence would be a great help to this noble cause.

Very respectfully.
John Chester.

The Excursion train from Phila. leaves at 7.20 A.M. from Westchester Depot corner of 31st & Market Sts, — returning leaves Oxford 5.45 P.M. arriving in Phila at 9. P.M.

Washington D C
June 1966

Chester Mr. John

Facilities for travel —
trans time &c from Phila
to Oxford & Lincoln
University

HEADQUARTERS,
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
STATE OF TEXAS,

Galveston, June 19th, 1866.

Maj Gen O. O. Howard
Commissioner
&c &c &c
General:-

I have the honor to report that I have taken the proper steps to procure the information required in your communication of the 4th ult, but Gov Hamilton as well as Gen Gregory with whom I send this communication will inform you as to the almost impracticability of getting the report you ~~desire~~ want in the form prescribed in this State as to the matter of "destitution" referred to. I have to report that

there is comparatively none except the small amount indicated on my ration return to which I respectfully refer you. I have some apprehensions that some distitution will result from the extensive overflows in certain portions of the State, but against which proper precautions have been taken. The reports required as to the number of rations necessary to prevent distitution will as promptly furnished

I will immediately make an extended report of affairs in this State. Have not done so sooner because I had not been here sufficiently long to learn the exact state of affairs

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servt
J. B. Kiddoo
Bvt Maj Gen Vols
Asst Com &c &c

Galveston Texas
June 19th 1866.

Gideon J. B.
Brt Maj. Genl. U.S.C.

Concerning reports on the matter of destitution, referred to in Genl Howard's letter. There is comparatively little destitution in Texas.

BUREAU REFUGEES, FREEDMEN AND ABANDONED LANDS,

State of ~~Kentucky and~~ Tennessee.

Personal

199

Assistant Commissioner's Office,

Nashville, Tenn., June 20th 1866

Dear General.

I am in receipt of your favor 15th inst touching the application of Dr. A. L. P. Green for rent money ordered restored to him by the Federal Court. I have refused to obey the order of the Court and shall of course continue to do so unless authorized by yourself or the Secy of War to make payment. Dr Green will visit you in person within the next few days to press his claim. I gave him a letter of introduction in which I commend him to your confidence & liberal consideration. I esteem him personally, but do not ask for him any special consideration over other sufferers.

Very Respectfully

Your obt Svt

Maj Genl O. O. Howard

Comd'g &c Washington, D.C.

Clinton B. Fisk

Bt. Maj Genl. &c.

Washington June 22. 1866

Fisk, Clinton B.
Maj Gen.

Friendly note –

June 24th 1866 ✓

Washington June 20th 1866

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard

Sir

I have the honor to make the following statement in regard to the Industrial School under my charge, which was organized about three months since. We have furnished employment & instruction to one hundred women, & six hundred garments have been completed. — We have felt very much encouraged in the improvement made & really feel as though we were seeing the fruits of our instructions. — The only drawback to our work is the want of material, for it takes a large quantity to keep twenty five

women employed even four or five hours per day, besides they are all poor & many of them very destitute, so I have thought it best to pay them very literally for their work in clothing &c. I have also distributed about fifteen hundred garments among the sick & needy.

In connection with our school we have a Lon-dry which we are trying to make useful both in the way of instruction & pecuniary aid to those who are here to benefit.

Hoping that this brief sketch of our work may meet with favor, I remain

Very respectfully Yours
W. F. Harris.

Agt. R. F. Freedsmens Com.

197

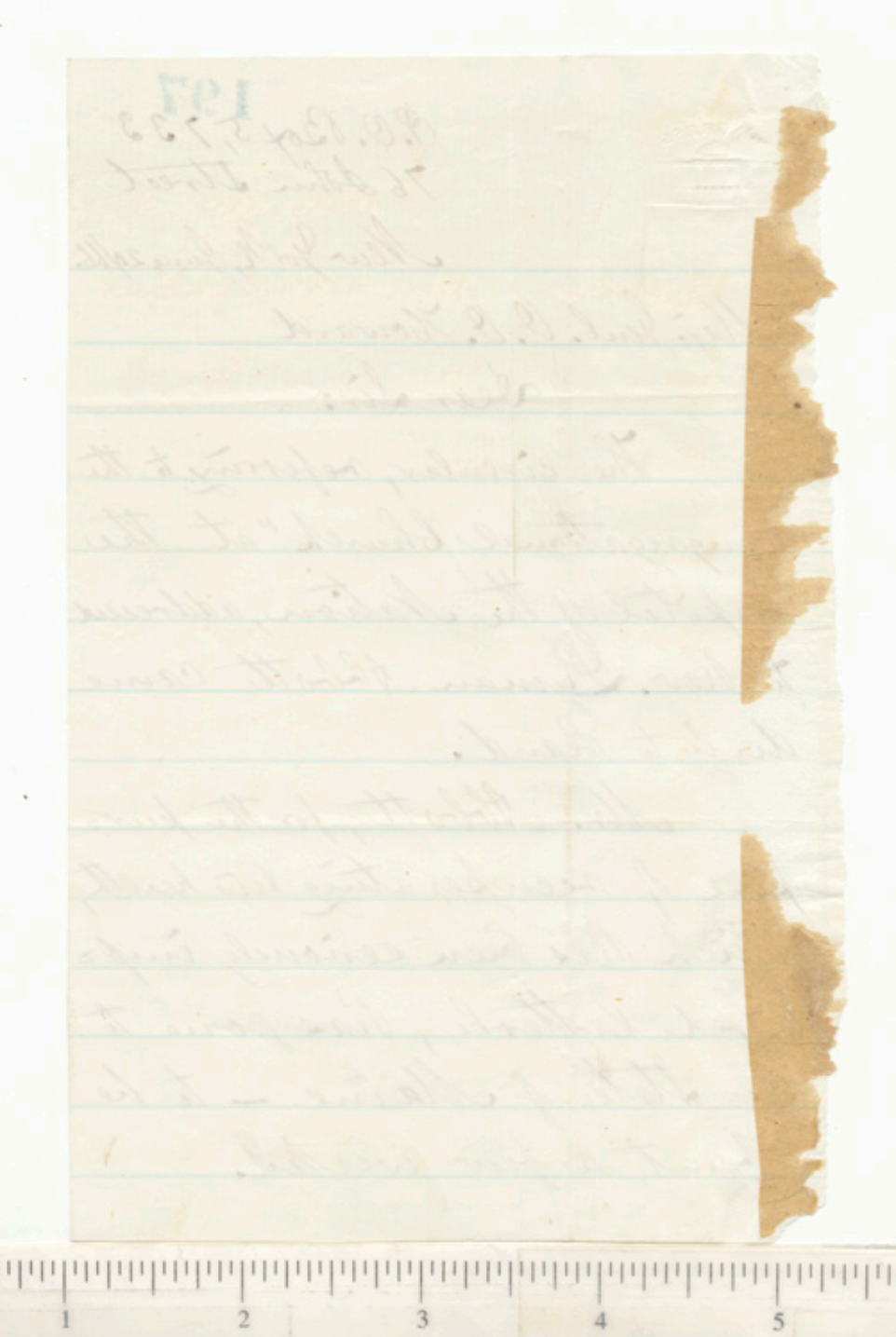
P.O. Box 5,733
76 John Street
New York, June 20/66.

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir:

The circular, referring to the "Congregational Church" at the Capital of the Nation, addressed to Rev. Lyman Abbott came duly to hand.

Mr. Abbott, for the purpose of recuperating his health, which has been seriously impaired latterly, has gone to the State of Maine — to be absent a few weeks.



As soon as he returns your paper shall be placed in his hands.

You will perhaps remember that I informed you at Mr. Beecher's Church, the night of the "Congregational re-union," that Mr. Abbott was sick — he has never been well since.

God bless and prosper the Washington Church enterprise is the prayer of

Yours truly
A. N. Rankin

New York. June 20. 1866

Rankin. A. N.

Friendly letter

Recd. June 21st 1866.

New York Sept 21 1866.

Genl O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

You will remember at the meeting of the Trustees of the Freedmans Savings Bank in our city last month, I took upon myself to introduce to you acquaintance Mr S. B. Chittenden of Brooklyn, (merchant of this city) and alluded to the effort being made here in behalf of the new Congl Church in Washington and expressed my regret to Mr Chittenden, that he did not listen to your earnest appeal the Evening before in Mr Beecher's Church.

Will you pardon me if I suggest to you, that you write Mr Chittenden a few

of your worthy enterprise &
the want of such help
as he can give, and make
an engagement to meet him
at his office, (or his house
which would be preferable)
at a time suited to your
convenience. I feel quite
confident, that a personal
interview of Genl Howard
with Mr Crittenden, will
secure a handsome
subscription for the Church
Knowing your deep interest
in this enterprise, and
having a deep sympathy
my self in its progress &
success, I have taken
this liberty of addressing
you. & remain with great
respect, Yours very truly
A. J. Barnes

Washington, D.C. June 21st 1866

Maj Genl O. O. Howard.

General

You will allow me the pleasure of introducing to you the bearer of this Lieut F. J. Foster, and I cheerfully invite your most favorable consideration of his application. This is the young gentleman I commended to you personally a short time since;

(over)

And as the appropriation for the "Redmen's Bureau" has now passed the Senate, I should have taken the liberty of again pressing this case upon you personally, but am prevented from doing so, by being called home on account of alarming sickness in my family.

I am the more earnest in this matter, because I know the Lieutenant would suit you.

I am General

Very respectfully Yours.

H. Van Ostrand

Washington Ga June 22 1861

Duncan - Nelson.

Recommends Dr. F. J. Foster for position as clerk in the Bureau.

Recd. June 23 1861