Norwich, Conn. June 26, 1866

Maj Genl. O.O. Howard,
and others -

Gentlemen -

Your circular respecting the “Congregational Church” at the Capital has been received. I approve of the enterprise contemplated in the permanent establishment of a Congregational Church in Washington. I regret that in my present circumstances as an ex-pastor, I am unable to become personally responsible for any pecuniary aid. But I will call the attention of my successor, Rev. Mr. Dana, to the subject. Perhaps he may have been addressed, as he should be, as the organ of communication with the church of my late pastoral charge. It is not long since he made of forcible appeal in behalf of the “Am. Congl. Union”, and the response was unanimously liberal. This effort being of recent date, and it being understood, that it was for church-building, and that a generous appropriation was to be made in favor of the church at Washington, it will not, I think, be judged advisable at present to make a special appeal in behalf of the object proposed in your circular. Mr Dana, however, may be relied upon to act in the premises as the claims of this cause shall indicate.

With sentiments of Christian fellowship,

Yours Very Truly,

Alverm Bond
June 26 1866

My dear gen Howard

At the congregational reunion in Brooklyn in May I subscribed $10 in aid of your Church enterprise which I enclose herewith. I wish I could make it a thousand times greater but the Salary of a poor Secretary is not very large and a Son in college and other home Expenses take what little I have. I send with it my best wishes & prayers. My Subscription was “28 Cornhill Boston”, which Mr Beecher, you remember, thought a funny name for a mother to christen her son by.

I am most truly yrs
J.P. Warren

[Summary written on the back page in a different hand.]
Boston June 26 1866
Warren J.P.
Sending contribution for Cong. Church.
Recd June 28th 1866
Washington D.C.
June 26th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Dear Sir

Permit me to ask your aid and influence in obtaining from the Christian publication societies of the north, one hundred small assorted Sunday school Libraries for the uneducated poor of Cherokee Georgia, to be distributed equally to the Colord and white. This section of the state is on and near the Rail Road running from Atlanta Ga, to Chattanooga Tenn. and which was the scene of all the desperate and bloody Battles of Genl Sherman for the possession of Atlanta, as also the Battle of Chickamauga; from this fact the people were deprived of all their property and are unable to provide for the necessary or purchase school and Religious Books for the education of the ignorant. If any Society will send to my address, Cartersville Ga the small libraries requested, I pledge myself to see them placed in the care of good and proper persons in each village, and District where they are most needed and will be properly applied. The reception of such Libraries will stimulate the desire for Education (which is already very great and increasing rapidly) as well as afford the means to try the foundation. I respectfully refer the Societies to Maj. Genl. Thomas, Hon W.D. Kelly; and to Gov Jenkins of Ga, for any information they may desire as to my honesty and sincerity.

Very Respectfully
your obedient Servant
Wm. T. Wofford

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Washington June 26 1866
Wofford, W. T.
Recd. June 27, 1866

[Written next to the summary.]
[Letterhead]
War Department
Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,
Washington
June 27th 1866
Respectfully referred to
Rev'd J.W. Alvord
School Inspector B.R,F&A.L. for reply
By order of Maj. Genl O.O. Howard,
Commissioner
/s/ J. Alton Sladen
Lieut. and Aid-de-Camp,
Private Secretary

[Reply]
June 27, 1866
Referred to the Am. T. Soc. Boston, with request that they furnish the libraries herein asked for
/s/ J.W. Alvord
[217, 218]

[Letterhead]
Headquarters
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
State of Texas,
Galveston,
June 26 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard
Dear Gen:

In reply to your personal communication with regard to Lt McClermot, I would state that he had been assigned
to duty by Gen Gregory at Millican, a very important point. He immediately began “overhalling things” and, in
candor, acted more like an insane than sane man. He went on a lecturing tour, and all of his actions were in the
exclusive interest of the planter, and former master. He in several instances tied freedmen up by the thumbs for
violating contracts, took all their fire arms from them –told them that they were not allowed to a horse, cow, pig,
or any kind of property without written permission of their employers –entirely overlooked and failed to arrest
parties who committed flagrant outrages, against freedmen, and in one instance took no official notice of a
brutal murder of a freedman which was reported to him by the friends of the murdered negro. In a word he
completely sold himself to the bad people of the community who used him to continue a form of slavery more
revolting than that which formerly had the sanction of the government.

I further have to state that he represented himself to several officers on duty with me, and also some of the
regular Army on duty under the Dep't Commander, that he had been sent here by Gen Grant who was a
“personal friend” of his to look quietly around, and see “what was the matter” and write him (Gen Grant) private
letters on the inside workings of the Bureau. I relieved him and ordered him to report to me in person and in a
ten minutes conversation with him I saw that it was rather the fault of his head than his heart that he was not
adapted to such duty as I required of him.

I regret to be obliged to state that I could not trust him again in any portion of the State. I am working pretty
hard just now, and my health is good much better than when I arrived here. I am preparing a detailed report
–could not report sooner for the reason that I had to leave the workings of things. I am becoming very much
interested in the work, get along finely with the military, and am I fear too popular with the citizens for my own
good worth. I have no serious apprehensions of its lasting very long. Two orders, Circulars nos 14 & 17
appear to have given the rebel papers and citizens such general satisfaction as to have made me the subject of
an immense amount of news paper commendation. The orders I deem just & proper and would be glad to have
your sanction or approval of them. Again Gen Gregory was so thoroughly odious to the people as to make any
change popular. I must say, however, that Gen Gregory's course, with a few slight exceptions meets my most
hearty approval. Will you be kind enough to say to Col Gratar & Mr Dram that you have heard from me. Be
pleased to give me full information as to my whole duty, and I will endeavor to perform it.

Respectfully

Col. Sinclair Asst Adj Gen sends his kind regards – he is a good officer.

Majr. Gen. O.O. Howard
Com.

I have been shown an anonymous letter to you, written from this place, making grave charges & reflecting upon Capt Sweeney, Supt of Freedmen's Bureau at this place. I am persuaded that you know I can have no earthly motive to address you in his vindication –other than a regard for the truth & justice.

If there is any officer of the Bureau, whose administration of its affairs, has been just –kind to the Freedman - <procting> him in all his rights. Scrupulous and exacting from the white race to the very verge of justice, but yet not passing that point –in my judgement Capt Sweeney is that officer. No one, as far as I have knowledge, has ever questioned his integrity of character.

In this District the Freedmen are working better – are more orderly and are, in all things doing better, and there is a better feeling existing between the White & Black Races, than in any other part of the whole South, and this I am satisfied is owing to the wise and just administration of Capt Sweeney. If there was nothing else to be said in his favour, this important result –known to the whole country – is in itself an unanswerable vindication of his character. I have, as you are well aware & still pass the management of 5 Large Plantations in this neighbourhood. I have had a good deal of official intercourse with Capt Sweeney –have never asked or received from him personal favour – originally entertained prejudices against him, but have long been satisfied that he is inacessable to corrupt motives of action –that his discharge of the difficult and embarrassing duties of his position, has given as general satisfaction to the Freedmen & the white race, as it was possible for any man to have done & as long as it is deemed necessary by the Government to retain the Bureau. I should regret exceedingly his displacement, - not on my own account, but on account of the interest I feel in the success of the great experiment of Freed Labour proving a success. To aid you and the Government, in bringing about this great result, I have been, as you are well aware, an earnest believer & co-maker. My own success is placed beyond all doubt so far as I am personally concerned & it gives me pleasure to acknowledge the personal obligations I shall ever feel to you, for your kindness to me in my first efforts to restore my shattered fortunes.

With assurances of great Respect
& personal regard
I am General
Your obt Servt
Gid. J. Pillow

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Helena Ark
June 26 / 66
Pillow Gideon J
Commending the administration of Capt. Sweeney Agent of the Bureau at Helena.
Recd. July 5, 1866.
Norfolk Va  
June 17th 1866

Dear Genl -

Several months have elapsed since I have had the pleasure of hearing from you. I <> has been for many months in the South Florida organizing my <negroes> & getting them in a contented <condition>. None of my negroes left me. All remain and I have settled them on a land upon the English system. Gave the yr & I take 2/12 – as I pay all expenses of cultivation.

Your agent Capt Hambleton, who is a nice gentleman, when I <left> <gave> him the privilege of my House, wrote me if any change should take place on your <bureau> - I am <likewise> <collonizing> my negroes <up here> in the same manner.

My book will be out in a month or less. I had <from> you some <complaints> as you will see.

Hoping to hear from you soon I
Am Genl
Your friend
John D Myrick

[Summary written sideways on the second page, in a different hand below the ending of the letter.]
Norfolk Va  
June 27th 1866
DeMyrick John
Friendly letter
Recd June 30th 1866
Maj Gen O.O. Howard,
Dear General,

I received the official reply of your officers, and in justice to Capt <Bendbridge> and myself allow me to say that I did not call upon him for rations, from the fact, that I learned, then was home here to give until lately. My last effort to get my supplies was in the spring. I obtained from Capt Beckwith, who was then in command of the District, some food for some Colored people, who at that time, was in great distress. The Officers of the Government have always responded promptly to any call I had made for the suffering.

Gen <Winslow>, and lady, boarded with me this summer, and he was very kind to all the poor people for whom I solicited aid.

I have now in one family five little orphans - and an aged grandmother, that I have been aiding out of my own little store. But the demand is too great upon my limited supplies. I saw Maj Leonard this morning. He is now in command of this District, and kindly promised assistance to these helpless little ones.

I am aware, that there has been very many calls upon the Government, that should not have been both by the blacks, and the whites, and that it is difficult many times to do justice in all cases. I am very grateful to you, for forwarding the testimony of the officers, thus giving me an opportunity of explaining the true position and preventing the cause, for which I feel a deep interest in from suffering.

The Society here from Pennsilvania, are doing both for our poor whites, and blacks, and I understand will continue their labors of love amongst us. I am very anxious, that a Home should be built for the orphans of our state, where the children would not only be educated, but be taught to labor. One great cause of much of the suffering with the people is indolence, that with their ignorance, done much in the rebellion. The poorer class have thought for themselves, but allowed the leading men to think for them.

I cannot close without expressing my gratitude for your prompt reply to my appeal, for the orphans and I still urge your influence in their behalf.

With many wishes that you may be spared to a long life of usefulness.
I remain very respectfully
Helena Dorsey
General Davis Tillson

Dear Sir

I am constrained to write you this because of the malicious misrepresentations of you by the Royal Georgian and its editor in public and private.

A respectable col'd man in whose integrity and varacity I have great confidence told me that “the proposition of the mayor of the city of Augusta (on the occasion of the colored people seeking an entrance to the grave yard) to allow as many of the colr'd people to enter as the white leaders thought necessary to carry in the flowers &c” would have been accepted willingly only for the interference of Bryant who advocated that all should go in peacibly, if they could, forcibly if they must. He stated to me further that “Bryant had repeatedly said that” he (Bryant) was strictly the Colored man's friend and consequently made no pretentions to be the white man's friend, as he could not be friendly to both races”. (I was not aware that there was such bitter hostility existing between the two races here as that [Torn paper] gauge would indicate.) “Bryant had also said that a sum of money be raised among the colored people to defray the expense of his bail when arrested by the city authorities for swindling the Colored people” and that he (the colored man) had been urged to give for that purpose”. I know of my own personal knowledge (said he) that Capt Bryant has swindled two colored men very recently out of large sums of money” and in answer to my question why he did not inform on him or give you the benefit of what he knew he said, I should be killed if I did, for I know the black people are organized and would do any thing Bryant said “with any colored person who turned against him”. No Col I know too much of his power with the Colored people to say anything about this matter.” It seems that the Inferior Court have determined to establish free schools for the blacks and the Mayor had accordingly notified the leading colored men to meet him at a certain time in order to get at the number of Col'd Children &c and before the time appointed to meet the Mayor, Bryant has a meeting of the Col'd people and sends a man from his office to advise the Colored People "not to accept the offer of free schools for the Col'd Children”. “We prefer to select our own teachers and pay them ourselves”. He further states that Bryan has circulated a report (which is strictly believed by the Col'd people) that you had informed parties in the Country (who were getting up large subscription lists for the Loyal Georgian) that you had suppressed the paper and that the money had better be returned to the subscribers” and on that account the paper must be supported by private subscription and that now the Col'd men were required to pay 25¢ per week and those who could not do that must work it out.

I certify on honor the above is a correct statement of what was told me and that I believe it to be a statement of facts.

Very Respectfully
(Sd) J Bowles
U.S. Assessor

P.S.
I do not feel at liberty to give the name of the Colored man because if by an accident it should be made public, I verily believe his life would be endangered.
J.B.

[Written in another hand at the bottom of the letter.]
Respectfully forwarded for the information of Genl Howard Com’r. I scarcely need say that the statement about
my ordering word to parties getting subscriptions to Loyal Georgia &c is simply false. Bryants interference
about the schools will prove a misfortune to the colored people of the state unless it can be overcome.

Davis Tillson
Bvt Maj General

Col Bowles served throughout the war in our Army.
D.T.
Peekskill June 28th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard

Genl

I suppose you will be somewhat surprised to receive a letter from me, but I trust you have not altogether forgotten me. As you are aware I was in the Southern Army during the war, though in no very prominent position, my service being mostly west of the Miss. And in a Staff Department. The close of the war left me, as many others, penniless: what little my wife brought me was used up during the struggle. During the past year I have been at home with my mother, and in very poor health. My health being now somewhat established, I take the liberty of writing to you, to ask you, if you have not among the employees of your Bureau, some position vacant, that you can give me by which I may be able to make an honest respectable living. Allow me to congratulate you upon your promotion; it afforded me great satisfaction to hear of it. My mother desires me to present to you her kind regards, and hopes should you ever come this way, she may have the pleasure of seeing you.

Very sincerely yours
C.H. Rundle [see note]

Direct Peekskill
New York

[Note. Charles H Rundell was graduated from the USMA in the Class of 1852. He and Otis knew each other quite well. Otis' uncle, Ward Bailey Howard, lived in Peekskill, so the families were acquainted and his mother knew Otis' father. Otis and Rundell would go to Peekskill together on occasion and Otis had tea with the Rundell's. I presume that he changed his name to Randle.]
Sanot Gate
July 1 1866
[written in pencil] Jun 28

Major General O.O. Howard
Sir

Mr Holman Pay Master has this morning paid me the Sum of eighty dollars being due two months twenty days. I suppose agreeable to all concerned notwithstanding my appeals to Dept <investheters> it is possible my pay has been raised to fifty dollars. Nevertheless you will please to pardon me for saying any thing at this time. I hoped to continue in your favor for many years & should be nice to see you much but it will be impossible at this time.

I am or consider myself
Yours with the highest
Respect & esteem
R. Sumner

[Note: I don’t see any reason to change the date to June 28 from July 1.]
Wilberforce University June 28th 1866

Major Gen O.O. Howard,
Dear Sir

I beg leave to inform you that you were elected a Trustee of Wilberforce University by a unanimous vote of the Board of Trustees June 28th, which we hope you will accept.

In behalf of the Board of Trustees of WU, I am yours very respectfully
J. T. Jenifer

P.S. My Dear General.
I hope you will accept our election of yourself to a Trusteeship of Wilberforce University. We are conscious of our poverty, obscurity and want of prestige, but we are nobly struggling to build up a great Institution of Learning, which we hope under God will become a great power in the land to bless all the races dwelling beneath the broad aegis of the Republic. With the best wishes for your future,

I am dear General
Yours fraternally
Daniel A. Payne
Raleigh June 29 '66

Dear Sir

If you have retained the letter written to you about the 2d of May by Gen. Howard & publish'd in the N.Y. Tribune, will you have the kindness to send me the original or a certified copy. I may need to use it as evidence for my defence. It having been made public, Gen H will not object to my making such use of it.

Yours truly,

E. Whittlesey

Rev. Geo. Whipple
Westerly June 29, 1866

Gen Howard
Dear Sir,

My heart is in full sympathy with the object presented in your circular, but I am now without a pastoral charge, or a pastor's salary, and of consequence can do for benevolent objects very little, but what I can do, I do most cheerfully.

Within please find five dollars, for your chh building fund & may the blessing of the great Head of the chh, rest upon the enterprise.

Yours in Christian love

A.L. Whitman

P.S. I shall try to get your cause before the members of the chh in this place.

[Summary written on the back page, in a different hand.]
Westerly R.I.
June 29th 1866 [Tape at top of page]
Whitman, AL
Sends contribution of 5 dollars.
Acknowledged
Coventry, Vermont
29 June 1866

Dear Sir,

Herewith I have $5 as my contribution towards building a Congregational house of Worship in Washington.

Yours truly,

Amy H. White

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

Coventry Vt
29 Jun 1866
White, Amy H.
Sends contribution of 5 dollars
Recd July 3rd 1866
New Orleans La
June 29 1866

Maj Gen O.O. Howard
General

Permit me to introduce to your acquaintance Capt W.I. Miner an extensive planter both in this State and in Miss who is about to visit Washington for the purpose of pressing a claim which he has against the Govt. This Bureau has nothing to do with the business involved but from what I know of the claim I consider it an eminently just one. Capt Miner was thoroughly conversant with the system of labor formerly prevailing and no one takes hold of the new system with greater energy & practical good sense. I have had much intercourse with him both personal and official which has been highly satisfactory and pleasant, and I feel assured that you will be gratified to talk to him upon the condition of things in this state.

Most Respectfully
&c &c
A. [Absolom] Baird

[Summary written on the last page, in a different hand.]
New Orleans La
June 29th 1866
Baird Maj Genl A.
Introduces Cap W.J. Miner
My dear Mother,

We are all quite well, glad to get your letter. Lizzie & baby [See note 1] are doing nicely. I am very sorry to hear of poor Dexter's death [see note 2]. He was a most promising young man, and I am particularly glad for his parents that he gave them abundant evidence of being a christian. I think some of the family will visit you this summer. My own time is beyond my control, but I may run on by & by.

Love to all. Dont be lonely. With such beautiful summer days, flowers & a Saviour you will not be much lonely.

Aff. Yr son
Otis [OO Howard]

Chs. is very well. Wash must be very kind to you. Tell him <!> will not forget it.

[Note 1. Lizzie gave birth to their fourth child on June 15, 1866.]
[Note 2. Dexter Howard, the son of Deacon Warren Howard and Rhoda Mitchell, died on 20 June 1866. He was Otis’ second cousin.]
June 30th 1866

Maj Genl O.O. Howard
Genl

I have thought it best in the present mixed condition of affairs in the medical department between Military and Bureau to order Dr DeWitt to Washington to lay before you in person the whole matter, that you might understand and settle the question as to who Dr DeWitt is to report to, viz Dr Horner Chief Medical Officer of the Bureau or Dr Page Chief Medical Officer of this Department or whither to both. If to both, Dr Horner & Page should have an understanding to prevent a conflict of orders and an unnecessary number of Reports. I have thus far felt that it was for the interest of the Bureau to keep it distinct from the Military, but have made wherever consistent Post Commanders the acting Asst Com'r of the Bureau; tho a more perfect co-opperation of both might be secured for the protection of the Freedmen. I have thus far given no Rations to people employed on Plantations – notwithstanding many are in great want. My Reasons for not forwarding a Ration Return for your approval is that both Genl Sickles and Governor Orr are opposed to it on the ground that it will encourage idleness. My own opinion is that some Freedmen could be assisted with great advantage as it would enable them to place themselves beyond the chances of want for the next year.

Hoping my action in sending Dr DeWitt to Washington in this matter will meet your approval. I have the honor to be Very Respectfully

Your Obdt Servt
RK Scott [Robert Kingston Scott]
Bvt Maj Genl
Asst Com'r

[Summary written sideways on the last page, in a different hand.]
Charleston S.C.
June 30 1866
Scott R.K.
Bvt Maj. Genl
Asst. Comr.
Concerning Dr DeWitt & asking to whom he shall report. <Reform> to the destitute &c
Recd July 3rd 1866

[Written in pencil in the middle column of the last page.]
To Dr Haden
The Genl has seen this letter.
A. P. II
[227]

Senate
June 30 (1866?) [The year was written in pencil.]

Genl Howard

I have rec’d another package of circulars. I am sure we have now enough! Don’t send any more.

I am Truly
S.C. Pomeroy [Samuel Clarke Pomeroy, U.S. Senator from Kansas, 1861-1872]
To Maj Genl O.O. Howard -

General:

I have the honor to say – that I have been about this City and Brooklyn these two days, finding as I feared that most of our friends were out of town. Mr Dodge did not come to N. York as I was told at <Williams>.

His Son gives me $100 & sends your note to his father advising him to make you a subscription. You better see him if possible as the subject will now be brought fully before him.

Other men whom I succeeded in finding are very friendly to the Church. Mr Chittenden will give – invites me to his County room after the 4th. Mr Hatch (Fish & Hatch) <promised [CHECK ORIGINAL – tape]> & asked me to call after he consults with his partner. Mr R.R. Gene gave $300 – Brooklyn , and says perhaps he will do more.

But such men as E.A. <Lunch>, Hunt, Abernathy, Holmes, Roper, Woodruff &c &c are all out of town. I am told that after the 4th they will be apt to come on to see to their businesses, & as there is a <grand> stampede to day to the country for over the Sabbath & the country holyday I will also make a little excursion into the Country where I know some men who may give.

Please address Mr Chittenden (C.B.) a personal note on the back of the Circular.

Kind regards to Mrs Howard – with congratulations – and all the family. I remain

Yours &c

Very Respectfully

J.W. Alvord

Insp. &c.

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

New York City
June 30 '66
Alvord J.W.
Insp &c.
Concerning subscriptions &c
Recd. June 30, 1866