Chicago, Ill., July 18, 1866

Major Genl. Howard,

Dear Sir,

Your kind favour of the 14th. long only reach in reply would state, that I shall be able to send you a list of the societies desiring to hear you, within a very short time. I have only a very few more societies yet to hear from, and will apply to you as soon as I hear from them.

I am gratified to learn that you intend coming West.

Yours Most Respectfully,

Edwin Lee Brown.
The "A. W. L. S." is an association of about thirty of the leading Literary and Lecture Societies of the West, formed for the purpose of joint action and mutual benefit (both to themselves and the Lecturers) in the matter of obtaining Lecturers, &c., &c. By this combined action they trust to become enabled to obtain the very best talent, by offering to the Lecturers regular routes, of greater or less extent, thereby making it more of an object for them to come "out West" than has been previously the case, when only detached engagements could be offered to them, and those very often widely apart. We hope also, to be of benefit to the smaller and "weaker" Societies among us, by enabling them to obtain Lecturers whom they otherwise could not hope to obtain, as many Lecturers will lecture for them in an extended course, at somewhat reduced figures, when else they could not afford to do so.

The particular advantages we offer to Lecturers consists in the fact that, instead of dealing with several persons in making their engagements, they deal in this case with only one (the Cor. Sec. of the "A. W. L. S.") who will arrange their routes, so that they may give the greatest number of lectures with the least possible loss of time, &c., &c., thus saving them a very great amount of trouble in the shape of correspondence, or the expense of employing an Agent, if they have been in the habit of doing so.

Of course, some Lecturers receive more applications from the Association than others, and the Cor. Sec. is instructed to apply only for those Lecturers receiving free applications or upwards; although he will, by particular request, apply for any of those receiving a less number.

It is understood, that in applying for Lecturers, they are to come, if at all, some time during the regular Lecture Season, or between the first of November and the fifteenth of March. When Lecturers cannot come within that period, but can come at a different time, they will please say so distinctly, in which case their propositions will be submitted to the different constituent Societies.

Lecturers, in their answers, will please give their lowest terms, stating also whether there will be any additional expenses in the shape of traveling or hotel bills, &c., and if so, exactly what, and how much; they will also state the exact time they can come, the whole number of Lectures they can deliver, also give the titles, in full, of their different Lectures:—in short, they will please make their answers as concise and definite as possible, so to save time and trouble to the Corresponding Secretary.

Each Lecturer will be paid the price agreed upon by the Cor. Sec. of the "A. W. L. S." at the close of his Lecture, by the Society before which he lectures.

There is a wide field for improvement, both intellectually and physically, in the Great West, and its people are ready and anxious to hear first rate Lectures, and are willing to pay for them; such can do good here, and we sincerely hope that all of those to whom we apply will consent to come, even at the sacrifice of a little personal ease and comfort.

Respectfully,

EDWIN LEE BROWN,
(Prep. Y. M. A., Chicago)
Cor. Sec., "A. W. L. S."

#2—See other side.
December 18th, 1866

To my dear friend of the United States of America at the head quarters of the United States, I hope that you will see this Bill of this State of Ark and I hope that the lawless men will be smoked out. The Rebel of this State and all the States of the United States, Thomas, I will try to sit it out and I mean to know more of it. But I hope that you will know it. Mr. President, I will know that I do not mean anything to tell you.

Washington, D.C. July 14, 1866

May know it.
But I Don't Know and I
was Born in Pike County
Missouri near Spencerburg
and my name is Thomas
Donnell let me know If I
see any Rebel
Ace in the State Where
I Live at I will let
you know But the rebel
were think the Officer
are sluice yet
A Nor man at this
Papers time So I will
Bring my Letters So I will
Stand By the union
I'll Deak the Place
St. Louis, Mo. July 17th, 1865.

General,

There are oath bound & secret associations being formed among the colored people of this & adjoining States, by late Volunteer officers of the U.S. Army. These ex-officers profess to have authority from some higher source to form these associations. The chief actor ranks himself next to General Howard in these organizations. The ostensible object are, Mutual bribe—to act in concert to gain civil and political rights—to establish schools, Academies & Colleges, newspapers...

During the Rebellion I was constantly active as a Volunteer Minister of the Gospel in the Army in Va., Ky., Tenn. & Alabama, and for the last two years as the Chaplain...

Having done much for some time to aid the blacks in the establishment of schools, and having a large experience as a teacher, I have been invited to join this League and to become chief of an Educational Bureau. The deep interest I feel in the present condition of the race leads me to desire such a position; but the doubts and uncertainties of the truthfulness and disinterestedness of the leaders cause me to hesitate.

I, therefore, write to know—If the good of the service allows you to give the information—Whether such associations are formed with your knowledge and approval.

Very Respectfully,

Your ob. S. H. L. Sted

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard, W. W. Eaton,
Chief of Freedman's Bureau, St. Louis,
Washington, D.C.
St. Louis, Mo., July 19, 1866

Pedestin, Wm.

State that there is a secret organization in this State which parodies the Civil War, Howard is at the head. Ask if such is the case.

Answered July 4th.

[Signature]

[Postmark: Jul 28 1866]
(Confidential)

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Office Assistant Commissioner, State of Georgia,

Augusta, Ga., July 17th, 1866.

Dear Sir,

It has been intimated to me that a change in the Bureau in this State is not improbable; and I, therefore, take the liberty of addressing you in regard to my own position. I am anxious to hold so long as the Bureau exists, if I am properly discharged its duties. In expressing such a desire I do not pretend to say that there is nothing selfish in it, yet I will do, genuine the justice to say that in seeking to retain my position under the present Civil, or any one who may succeed him, I seek also the interests of those for whose moral and mental elevation I am laboring.
I believe I have gained the entire confidence of the free people of this State, as well as that of some of their white friends here, and also the confidence and hearty cooperation of the Aid Societies which have extended their efforts to this State, and have arrangements in foot now by which a strong force of teachers and missionaries will be brought into the field in the fall.

That you may know what is thought of me by those who have known me since my early childhood, I enclose the recommendations upon which I secured my present position.

In explanation I will say that Mr. Stewart, whose letter I enclose, was a member.
of the XXXVI. Congress, is one of the ablest lawyers of West
ern Pa., and is now the Re
cublican candidate for judge of the judicial district in which he lives.

I refer you also to Hon.
Geo. V. Lawrence and Hon. W. D. Kelley
M. P.'s from Pa.

I go North in a day,
or two, to confer with the Societies in N. Y., Boston, Phila., and Pitts-
burch in regard to future spe
rations (those of the coming school
year) and should like to visit
Washington to have a personal
interview with you, but I may
not feel able to bear the expense
and shall therefore be obliged
to ask you to address your
reply to this letter to my
home — New Brighton, Pa.

My recommendations you
will please return until I
The text on this page is not legible due to the quality of the image. It appears to be a handwritten note, but the content is not clear.
write for them or you can return them to me with your reply to this letter, as may seems best to you.

Requesting a reply at your earliest convenience.

I am, then very respectfully,

Your obt. servant.

J. S. Herbert

State Supt. E. S. Fur
Maureen Lu Lee

Mother of Gino

She is able to be the success of our
Gin on Board in Geo. - Some in
- the rest continues working

in the room.

Answer to Fundamental

From: John D. Fergus

Edith March

317 Main Street

Curriculum Qr. - Southwick, MA
My dear General:

Mr. C. Thurlow Chase is a man of capacity, prudence, modesty, diligence & eminent faithfulness to the Higher Good.

If you are wanting some one whose it will be hard even for the captious to find fault with, someone who will not undertake more than he can thoroughly do; some one who gets up with a head full of fresh common sense, goes to bed with a clean conscience—you will go a long journey before you can do so well as to employ him. So I think, if I know somewhat of the man.
I think he might be especially useful in looking after the school buildings authorized by the new law — thank God & Congress for it!

But he is a man of varied talent. It would especially satisfy me, if his own consent could be obtained, to find him representing the Bureau in some influential post in the Mississippi Valley.

Always, dear General,  
my faithfully yours,  

J. R. Sheppard

May, Gen. O. O. Howard  
Washington
Washington July 24, 1866

Major Gen O.C. Howard
Moses Sweeter
L. A. Pitcher

Gentlemen,

The request for a collection in behalf of the Portland Officers Signed May yourselves as Executive Committee appointed by having at a late meeting held in our Eagle Eye Church on this morning received.

It would pay in reply that the local Baptist Church took a Collection for that object last Sabbath morning and
I have already placed the amount raised in the hands of Mr. E. H. Smith, at the location of the Board of the City.

Yours Respectfully,

W. H. Haviland
Pastor Calvary Baptist
Holmes Not, Martha's Vineyard, Illas
July 20th 1866

Dear General,

A letter — the essential portions of which are, literally, as follows — has just reached me.

"My dear friend,

I understand confidentially that Mr. Dana has made an application to Genl. Howard for the promotion to Chief Clerk, instead of yourself, and that he has suspended the case until investigation is made as to the proper one for receiving the promotion.

"New claims the right on the ground that his 1st class regular appointment in the U.S. Post Office invalidates your temporary appointment as 2nd class. Such an argument appears to me perfectly ridiculous, but he has certainly talked to the General in such a manner as to effect its furtherance. At present I should feel quite sorry to have your head this place and therefore write you this note that you may be on the lookout for you have always..."
seen a good friend of mine.

"Please don't let any person know that
I have written you anything on this subject
as was told to me in private conversation.

"Now has acted very ungenerously in
himself, in the matter and not only New but any
other, whose names I will not mention until
I see you, have been implicated and are urging
the appointment before your return."

As suggested by the above, permit me to
General to say, briefly,

It is difficult to perceive from the former posting
of a $1200 "regular" clerkship in the General's
General's Office, gives one a claim to the Chief
Chief Clerkship of the Freedmen's Bureau which is

and as much as the other clerkships in the
latter Bureau - "temporary." Or, if the fact of
an existing appropriation makes the Chief Clerkship
ship and for similar reasons as the other clerk
ship of the Freedmen's Bureau "regular"
then it is still more difficult to perceive
anything but present regular rank in the Cre-
can avail a claimant for promotion.

The fact that at about the time the claimant
for promotion over my head, was a 13th class clerk in the office mentioned. I was Captain on the Vol. Staff and successfully performing both my Departmental duties and those of Capt. Gw. Alex Wells, in the Wilderness, at PO and at Spottsylvania and generally through the campaign. This served as an enthusiastic participant until I was no longer fit.

If there is any force in the new and genuine quibble brought forward on my absence I would respectfully ask you, Generals, if you would have promoted the Major of a Volunteer Regiment over the head of a Competent Lieut. Colonel for 20 stronger men than the fact of that major holding a rotten tenancy in the regular service?

I will conclude at once by saying that, resolute as I always am in the vindication of my rights, I attach a much greater value to your appreciation and friendship than to
even the promotion you have promised and
I so long looked forward to.

Upon the equity of the proposition I have
submitted, above, upon my unwavering sentiment to
my duties and to yourself, upon my zeal throughout the past as well as in the present,
and upon your strong sense of justice,
I am quite content to rest my case.

I have the honor to be, Generals,
Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant faithful from

Edw. Wooten Owen

Major General O.O. Howard
U.S.A.
Commissioner Freedmen's Bureau

Washington, D.C.