

Please address EDWIN LEE BROWN,

Cor. Sec. "Associated Western Literary Societies,"

46 RIVER STREET, UP STAIRS,

CHICAGO, ILL.

See CIRCULAR of objects and aims of this Association on the OTHER SIDE.

Chicago, Ill., July 18 — 1866

Major Gen^l. Howard,
Dear Sir,

Your kind favour of the
14th was duly rec^d.

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.

Associated Western Literary Societies.

SECRETARY'S OFFICE, CHICAGO, ILL.

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 *five* 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,

(Pres. Y. M. A., Chicago.)

Cor. Sec. "A. W. L. S."

See other side.

Ark
July 18th 1866

mas
Col. Troops

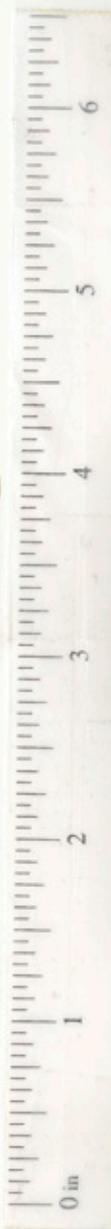
on the political



Washington July the 18th 1866
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 learned Men will voters
be fore the Rebel of this States
And all other States of
the united States Thomas
Donnell of the gifters sit
us to I and I mean know
horrer of it But I hope
that you will know
it Mr President Johnson
will know that
I Do not mean exery
horrer to tel you
My know it

Washington July 24th 1866

But I don't know and I
was born in Pike County
Missouri near Spencer Burg
& And they name it Thomas
Donell to I do and if I
see any Rebel
see in the state where
I live at I will let
you know if the rebel
were think the colored
people are slaves, yet
I see now at this
presen time so I will
bring my letter so I will
stand by the union
I do not take place





"The U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION 16
sends this sheet as a messenger between the soldier and his
home. Let it hasten to those who wait for tidings."

St. Louis, Mo. July 19th 1866.

General;

There are oath bound and 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 objects are, Mutual benefit - to act in concert to gain civil and political rights - to establish schools, Academies & Colleges, Newspapers, &c.

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

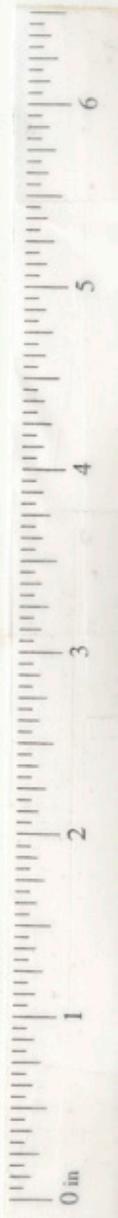
10

The U.S. CHRISTIAN COMMISSION

reads this story as a messenger between the soldier and his home. Let it reach to those who wait for tidings.



[Faint, mirrored handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]



of the 12th U. S. C. Infantry.

97

Having done much, for some time, to aid the blacks in the establishment of schools - & having a large experience as a teacher I have been invited to join this League and to become head 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 ~~that~~ entertained 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 approbation.

Very Respectfully,
Yours obt. Servant

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

St Louis. Mo. July 19. 1862

London, Wt.

States that there is
a secret-organization
in this West-which professes
that Sen. Howard is
at the head. Asks
if such is the case.

answered July 24 70

via P. O.



(Confidential.)

98

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

Office Assistant Commissioner, State of Georgia,

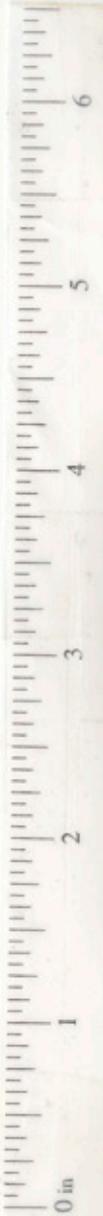
Augusta, Ga., July 19th, 1866.

Dear Gen:

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 ^{it} so long as the Bureau exists, if I so long properly discharge its duties. In expressing such a desire I do not pretend to say that there is nothing selfish in it, yet I will do myself the justice to say that, in seeking to retain my position under the present Com., or any one who may succeed him, I seek also the interests of those for whose moral and mental elevation I am laboring.

(Faint handwritten text)

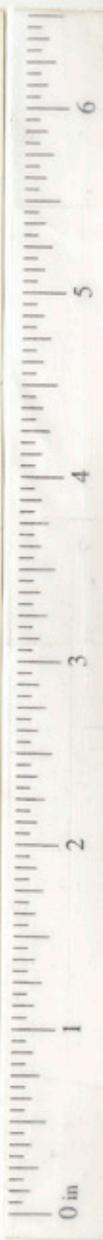
(Faint, illegible handwritten text covering the main body of the page)



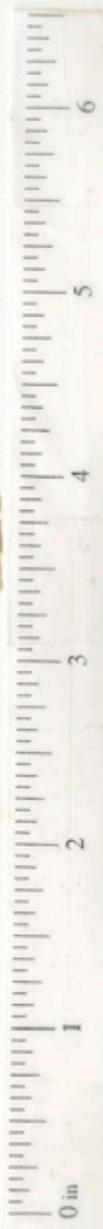
I believe I have gained the entire confidence of the freed people of this State, as well as that of some of their white friends here, and also the confidence and hearty cooperation of the Aid Societies which have extended their efforts to this State; and I have arrangements on foot now by which a strong 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



I believe I have given the
 entire confidence of the
 people of this State, as well
 as that of some of their
 friends here, and also the
 confidence and hearty co-
 operation of the Legislature
 in what have appeared to be
 to them a just and necessary
 arrangements in fact and
 in principle, and arrangements
 which will benefit the State in
 the future. But you may think
 that a thought of care to the
 State have been more since
 my early childhood, and
 the recommendations upon
 which I secured my present
 position, in explanation of
 which that Mr. Stewart, whose
 letter I enclose, was a member



of the XXXVI. Congress, is one ¹⁰⁰ of the ablest lawyers of Western Pa., and is now the Republican 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. Es. from Pa.

I go North in a day, or two, to confer with the Societies in N. Y. Boston, Phila. and Pitts-
burgh in regard to future operations (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 retain until I

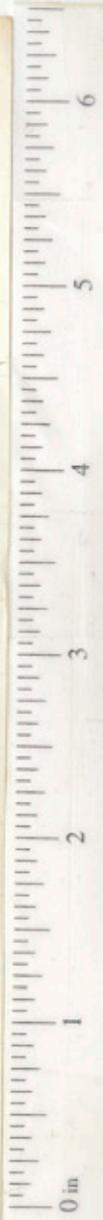
111

write for them or you can return them to me with your reply to this letter, as may seem best to you.

Requesting a reply at your earliest convenience

I am, Gen, very respectfully,
Your obt. servant,

J. S. Oberhart
State Supt. F. S. Ga



Secretaries:

GEORGE WHIPPLE, }
 MICHAEL F. STRIEBY, } *New York.*
 JACOB R. SHEPHERD, *Chicago.*

AMERICAN MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION:

29, Lombard Block;

Chicago, July 19th

My dear General:

Mr. C. Thurston Chase
 is a man of sagacity, prudence,
 modesty, diligence & eminent faithful-
 ness to the higher good.

If you are wanting some
 one whom it will be hard even for
 the captious to find fault with; some
 one who will not undertake more
 than he can thoroughly do; some
 one who gets up with a headfull 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,
 & 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 gratify
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,
A R Slipkirk.

Major Gen. O. O. Howard, Sec.
Washington,

Washington July 20, 1866

Major Gen O. G. Howard
 Moses Sweetser
 C. A. Pitcher

Gentlemen

The request for a collection in behalf of the Partisan Sufferers signed by yourselves as Executive Committee appointed by Col. L., at a late meeting held in Dr. Gurley's Church was this morning received.

I would say in reply that the Colony Baptist Church took up a collection for that object last Sabbath morning and

I have already placed
the amount raised in
the hands of Mr Huntington -
Cashier of 1st National
Bank of this City

Yours Respectfully
J R Howlett
Pastor of Colony Bpt. Ch.

Holmes Hole, Martha's Vineyard, Mass,
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 Dr. Dyer 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.

" Dr. Dyer claims the right on the ground that his 1st Class regular appointment in the quarter Master General's Office invalidates your temporary appointment as 4th Class. Such an argument appear 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 you lose the place and therefore write you this note that you may be on the lookout, for you have always

seen a good friend of mine.

120

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

"New has acted very ungentlemanly, I think, in the matter and not only New but others, 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 say, briefly,

It is difficult to perceive how the former position of a \$1200 "regular" clerkship in the Quartermaster General's Office, gives one a claim to the Chief Clerkship of the Freedmen's Bureau, which is quite as much as the other clerkships in the latter Bureau - "temporary". Or, if the fact of an existing appropriation makes the Chief Clerkship (and for similar reasons all the other clerkships) of the Freedmen's Bureau "regular", then it is still more difficult to perceive how anything but present regular rank in the Bureau can avail a claimant for promotion.

The fact that at about the time the claimant

186
for promotion over my head, was a 1st class
clerk in the office mentioned. I was Captain
on the Vol Staff and successfully performing
both my Departmental duties and those of A.S.C.
to Gen^l Alex Webb, in the Wilderness, at Po River,
at Spottsylvania and generally through that
campaign, which found me an enthusiastic
participant until I could no longer sit
my horse from illness, would seem to afford,
in itself, reason for my receiving as high a
clerical appointment under the Government
as my capacities would warrant.

If there is any force in the new and in-
genious quibble brought forward in my absence
I would respectfully ask you, General, if
you would have promoted the Major of a
Volunteer Regiment over the head of a compe-
tent Lieutenant Colonel for no stronger reason
than the fact of that Major holding a Lieuten-
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 do long looked forward to.

Upon the equity of the proposition I have
submitted, above, upon my unwavering fidelity
to my duties and to yourself, upon my record
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, General,

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant and faithful friend

Wm. Wooster Owen

Major General O. O. Howard

U.S.A.

Commissioner Freedmen's Bureau

Washington D.C.