81

Providence Nov. 23 1866.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

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I enclose E. A. Smith Cash's Sight draft on Fourth National Bank, N.Y. for Fifty Dollars, being amount of Rev. Josiah Chapin's subscription to the Cong'l. Church in Washington. You will remember on Call on Rev. Chapin.

I did hope to secure something more for you, but my time has been so occupied that I have made no effort. Moreover, I doubt whether any effort would have proved effectual, which was not backed by your effectual presence.

I hope to hear of your full success. Did Mr Royal Taft, whom I introduced to you in the Cars, give you anything?

Very truly Yours

A. C. Hamlin.

Providence R. I.
Nov. 23d 1884

Paxton A. C.

Encloses Sight Draft on 4th National Bank N.Y. for fifty dollars. the contribution of Rev. Josiah Chapin

Pd.

Letter under
Received Nov. 26th 1884

American Tract Society.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

HENRY HILL, Treasurer. N. BROUGHTON, JR., Depositary.

Tract House, 28 Cornhill.

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Washington

Boston, Nov. 23d 1866

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

Called to this city by the dangerous illness of my mother, I called at your office according to invitation. Some of my friends in Boston have been sanguine, perhaps unreasonably, that you would find employment for me. I have no claim, political or other, upon you or upon the government; but would be glad of a common clerkship. I write a tolerably good hand, and would not be an "eye servant."

Very respectfully

R. G. E. Humphrys.

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Washington
Nov 23. 1864

Humphreys –
R. I. E.

Requests a clerkship

Answered

Harrisburgh Penna
Nov. 23. 1866

Major Genl. Howard.

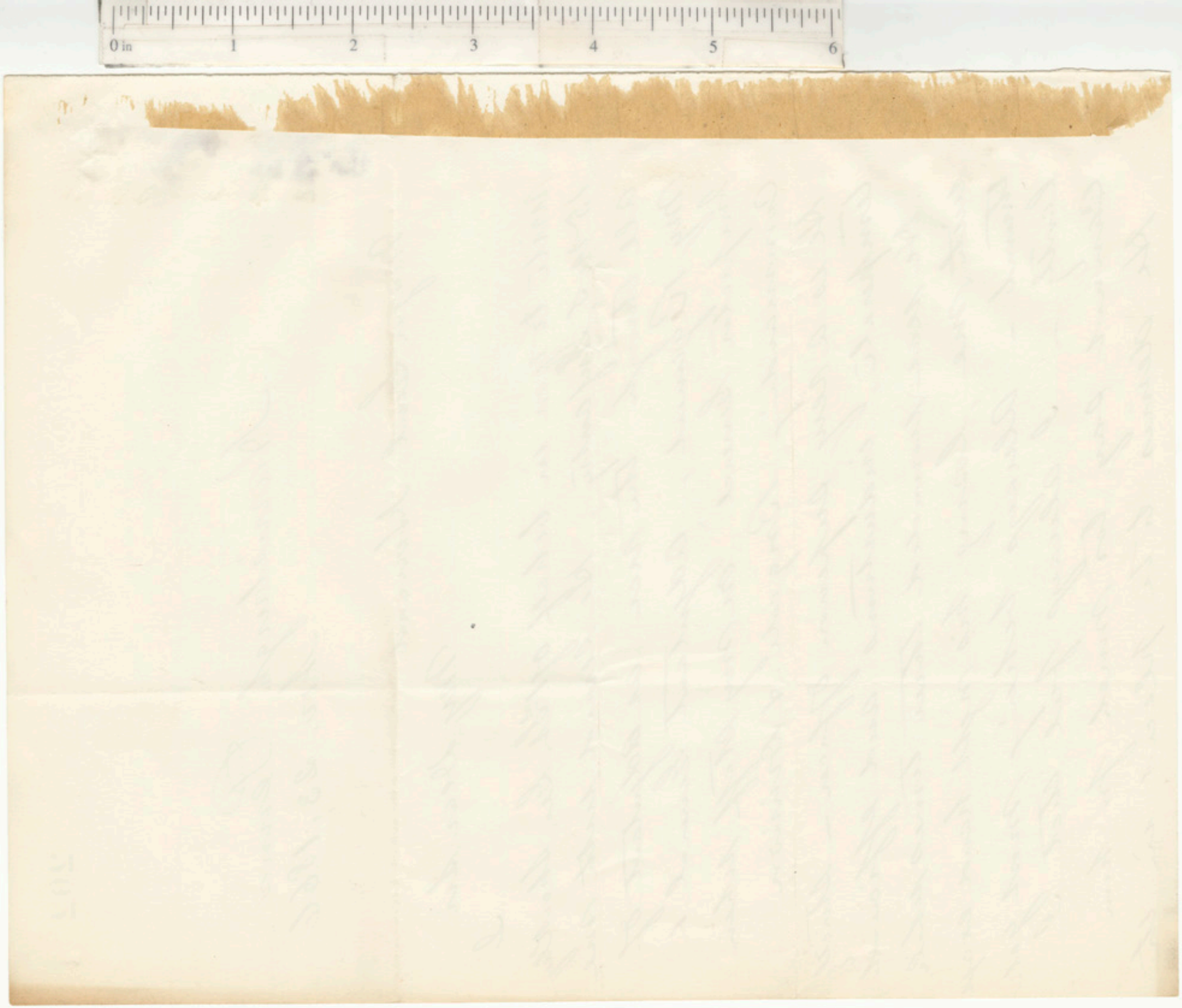
My Dear Sir

I write to you in behalf of 1st Lt. Geo. Shockley 15 U. S. Infantry, He served with me all through the war as Adjutant of my Regiment, Adjutant General & Inspector General on my staff when commanding Brigade & Division

He is a very superior officer – strictly temperate, industrious and efficient

He was wounded three times while with me, losing his right hand except thumb – Always behaving most gallantly – I always feel that I cannot say too much for him

He desires to be placed in the



veteran reserve corps with the rank of Captain — Maj. Genl. Parke is familiar with his services and his efficiency as an officer and would be pleased if you would refer to him before you act.

I am Genl.

Your Most Obt. St.

J. F. Hartranft

Harrisburg, Pa.
Nov. 23. 1864

Hartranft, J. F.

Recommends Capt
attention of Gen.
Seward direct. his
Marshal, 15th N. J.
Inf'y

Recd. Nov. 1866. 1866

Oxford, Nov. 23d, 1866.

General Howard,

Dear Sir,

The Rev. Mr. Paravisini of Phila. visited Oxford today for the purpose of acquainting himself with the condition and affairs of the Lincoln University, and in the course of conversation remarked that in a late interview with you the impression had been made on his mind, that you were not expecting to be in Phila. again until the 2nd of Dec. next. I address this note to you at the suggestion of a member of the executive committee of the Board of Trustees, lest notice of a called meeting of the Board, on the 27th inst., had failed to reach you.

The committee appointed to prepare a system of laws for the fixing of

the policy and government of the University, will be ready to report at that time. It is of great importance that all questions involved in these subjects should be so decided as to secure the approbation, and command the confidence of the public. The security of the endowment, necessary to any large and permanent success in the Department of Instruction, & the part which this Institution shall undertake in educating the colored youth of our country are among the subjects that must be decided by the Board. We all hope that your engagements and official duties will not prevent your meeting with the Board in Phila. on Tuesday the 27th inst. a few days earlier than your expressed intention of returning to that City.

Seventy five students are now present in the classes. There is a very general religious seriousness manifested among

them, and they are for the most part earnestly and successfully engaged in their appointed studies.

Yours most respectfully
I. N. Rendall.

Oxford Nov 23 '66
Po.

Rendell J M

Concerning a meeting
of the Board of Trustees
of Lincoln University

Mr Dewey

and by telegram

look up.

~~Personal~~.

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I

HEADQUARTERS

Confidential. **District of Mississippi,**

Vicksburg Miss., Nov 23d, 1866.

Maj-Genl O. O. Howard.

My dear Genl:

Your letter of the 14th inst was received yesterday, and I hasten to reply to it. But first I must thank you for your kind interest in my promotion, and your willingness to aid me. I thank you sincerely for your offer to see Genl Grant, and give him your knowledge of what you are generous enough to call "my efficiency and gallantry".

Admitting myself of this offer I will at once proceed to beat your remarks "that a man that clings to Genl Grant, mind that, you was not strong for the Union in the early days of the rebellion". You tell me the General speaks highly of my service. I respectfully submit that the best reputation of such a conspiracy as a want of fine, loyal,

and generous devotion to the Union
as well in the dark and days of the rebel
as the bark and triumphant ones.

On my official record, on a true a
fair history, in the great and good
work of suppressing the slaveholders
rebellion I am willing to be
weighed and stand or fall.

Of course I can not undertake
to say how the General came by
the suspicion you speak of, but I
can truly affirm that there is no
foundation or warrant for it in
any act, or deed, or feeling of mi

As this is a matter which "touches
mine honor" and pride as a soldier
and patriot, I will, at the risk
of ~~tiresome~~ tiring perhaps some
your patience and Genl Grant's, give
you a brief narrative connected wi
myself that I believe will show
the utter injustice of the imputation

your question as entertained by the President.

I was in Athens in Greece, near the close of Nov, 1860, when I heard of the result of the Presidential contest of that year. Fearing that the election of Mr Lincoln would be made the pretext, in the hands of direct designing and wicked men as Yancey, Rhett &c, to inflame the southern mind and create an attempt, the happy union under which our country had so prospered, I addressed letters from Athens to conservative acquaintances of mine in the southern states, imploring them to have nothing to do with any movement inimical to the union of the states under the federal constitution, and above all to oppose a firm barrier to any hasty action which would inevitably precipitate a conflict between the Government and the South. Finding that the southern states were but the leading, and foreseeing all the consequences, I returned to

The United States near the close of March 1861, went immediately to Washington and reported for duty, though my leave of absence had not expired. When the rebels proved that war was their intention by the firing on Sumter, and President Lincoln had called out troops, I was ordered to Indiana to organize regiments and muster into service the volunteers from that state. On this duty I left Washington on the 17th of April, 1861, and I have never been east of the Mountains since. Without the assistance of any officer I remained in Indiana six weeks and during that time mustered some 40000 volunteers into the service. To do so, I was compelled to work night and day: in fact, I had about as hard a campaign as any I had in the field during the war.

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In October, 1861, I was appointed a Brigadier General of Volunteers.

I may remark here that the appointment was offered to me in July, 1861, and that I then declined it on the ground that there were already many more General officers than were needed to command the troops in the field; that I was doing far more good where I was, organizing, mustering into service, and preparing the troops for the field than I could do in the field with no troops to command; but that so soon as there were more troops in the field, I would be most happy to accept the appointment of Brigadier General of Volunteers.

With my letter of appointment I was ordered to report to Genl Sherman, then

commanding in Kentucky; in fact Genl Sherman had frequently appeal to have me sent to him.

I took the field in Kentucky on the 17th of October, 1861, and from that to the close of the war, when not actually disabled by sickness or wounds, I never lost a moment's duty.

Though I was recommended for the appointment, by my immediate commanders, of Major-General as far back 1862, as you can answer, I did not get the appointment till after the battle of Nashville, near the close of the war.

I think I may refer to you, General, to testify that this neglect of the Government, nor the fact that juniors in rank and service were promoted over my head, ~~xxx~~ soured me, or caused me for a moment to be less devoted to the service, or less zealous, faithful, and active in its service.

observing from a long experience in the South, that the opinion, commonly entertained in the North, in the earlier period of the war, that slavery was an element of weakness to the South was erroneous — on the contrary, knowing it to be a source of strength so long as it remained intact, as far back as the mid-summer of 1862, I wrote and published an article exposing the fallacy of the Northern opinion on this subject, maintaining that the rebellion could never be put down till the rebels were deprived of the source of their supplies in slave labor, and urging that they had slavery be seized on the ground of "military necessity". This was precisely the ground that Lincoln took in his celebrated emancipation proclamation, just six months later. In connection with

this, branch of the subject I will add that, near the close of the war, I addressed a letter to the legislature of Kentucky, which was very widely circulated through the public press, urging the adoption of the 13th state constitutional amendment abolishing slavery. The 13th amendment to the constitution of the United States, abolishing slavery, had not then been submitted by Congress to the several states.

Reviewing my military and political history and conduct from the first to the last of the war, and since its close, I can not see how I could better prove my complete devotion to the Union from the first hour the demon of secession caused its destruction and wicked to the grand, final struggle which swept it away, by the purest blood, in the ever-memorable victory

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at the close of the war.

I think I may also appropriately add that my father, a citizen of Kentucky, though an aged man, nearly seventy years of age, was from the very outset of the troubles a most positive and decided union man; that on account of his decided union sentiments he was several times driven from his home in Southern Kentucky by the rebels, (the first time as far back as Sept, 1861,) and his home plundered; and that, as member of the Military Board which was established by the Legislature of Kentucky when the military power of the state was taken out of the hands of the traitorous Governor Mr C Jeffers, by legislative act, my father did more to raise and organize troops for the Union than any man in Ky. My father supported Mr Lincoln for the

for the presidency in 1864. In 1860 he voted from Mr Douglas — and for Breckinridge.

I am aware that it is asking a great deal of your time and patience, as also of Genl Grant's, but I must, nevertheless, most respectfully ask you to read ~~this~~ the foregoing and my former letter to you about my pretensions to the General.

To do so will be, I respectfully submit, doing no more than justice to one, who has tried so hard to be faithful to the Union through all its darkest trials, and yet has had the misfortune, intensely to be misunderstood and misrepresented.

Having written so much, my dear General, about myself, I could say a word in justice to my reputation as a national soldier, I will now reply to the second part of your letter, that is relative to the schools for the education of the colored people.

You can not feel a deeper interest in regard to the movement for the education of the colored people than I do. It is a subject to which I have given much anxious thought for several months past, with a view to trying organize some good working system through which to realize in practice the grand and benevolent design of educating and improving the colored people.

The result to which my reflections have led me is shadowed the plan which I have been laboring to inaugurate for the last two months.

This plan was explained to Dr Warren, the late Superit, before he left here, and he was pleased to say of it, "that he thought I had got hold of it the matter by the right end".

The plan is to lay interest all Christian sects and denominations, whether North or South, all charitable associations wherever located, in short, all good people wherever they may live, but more especially the inhabitants of this state, living right here among the colored people, in the education of the latter.

The good fruits of my plan, though so lately announced, and not at all in full operation, are beginning to show themselves in the numerous favorable notices of the plan in many state papers and in many papers out of the state, north, and south; in friendly and encouraging and appearing letters, promising cooperation and assistance, from northern benevolent societies, from ministers of the gospel in the north and in this state; and in the assurance I have received from planters in the state of their intention of to establish schools on their plantations for the education of the children of their colored laborers.

The plan was not hit upon as a means of yielding anything to the times and their vile and wicked prejudices, on the contrary, it was adopted with the design of holding meetings, thinking the agency of popular lectures, and by the help of that great, modern agent for the

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dissemination of truth, the correction of error, and the formation of a proper public sentiment — the lecture, in every part of the state, the prejudice against and the opposition to the education of the colored people, and thus "bind the lion in his lair."

Since I have been in this state I have treated all the people of the state, whether white or black, with courtesy and respect, and have persuaded, by conciliation and kindness, to allay sectional prejudices and the embitterments of the war. But when it has been proper, whether as Military Commander or the Chief Clerk of the Bureau, to take a firm and decided stand, whether against the state laws or state officials, or the people, I have not hesitated to join issue with them,

and proclaim the paramount authority of the laws of the United States, and equal natural and civil rights to all men, irrespective of race or color. Such being my fixed sentiments, I am willing, more, prepared, to take action under them, and accept the full responsibility for such action without asking any of my seniors to share my responsibility.

I think you have mistaken, as well as our northern brethren are somewhat addicted, the position of the Rev. Mr Douglas. He is not the superintendent of education of the colored people in this state, and will probably never be. I am the superintendent, and if you will examine my previous reports, you will find it so stated. And I must say that the apprehension of northern societies that Mr Douglas will not

cooperate with them fully is, I think, a little premature; and for the reasons, 1st, that he is not the Superintendent of education, and consequently there is no company connection between him and them, and all intercourse is therefore voluntary on either side; and 2d, if even if he were the Superintendent of Education, the Northern counties have not proved him, and therefore have no right to say whether they will find him a pleasant and heartly cooperator or not.

And here it is proper I should explain, once for all, Mr Douglas's position and relations to the Bureau, ~~and his~~ duties, and ~~&~~ why employed him.

His duties and relations to the Bureau are fully explained in the order announcing his employment by the Bureau, namely, to canvass the state and address the people for the purpose of interesting them in the education of

of the colored people. This is his
sole and simple duty. ~~He~~ He has
no authority to exercise any contro
over the schools, by whomsoever
established, to say what reports
they shall make, or what schools
shall receive pecuniary assistance
from the Superintendent - that is a power
I carefully retain in my own hand
and purpose to do so for the prese
and perhaps as long as I am in m
present position.

Mr Douglas was not recommended
to me for this position of lecturer
because he was an Episcopalian
merely, for I am a member of no
Church; but because he is a chr
tian minister belonging to a larg
body of communicants, whose
church was the first in this State
to take any action, in an ecclesias
tical council, looking toward the

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education of the freed people; because of the warm interest he expressed to me in the movements for the education of the colored people; because of his long residence in the Southern states, and his fitness, therefore, to cope with the absurd prejudices of the Southern people against the education of the colored people, and my conviction that until this prejudice is overcome, we can not hope to do much toward the general education and improvement of the unfortunate race; and because of his previous good relations with our officers, Major Reynolds, Capt Pleasants, Dr Rupp, and others, at Helena. To this, though small in influence, may be added that Mr Hughes is a northern man, being a native of Connecticut, and a cousin of the late Genl Mansfield and Capt Hilton of the United States Army.

Before employing Mr Douglas as
lecturer I must be satisfied to the
Revd Mr Bateman, late chaplain
of the 8th Indiana Vols, recommended
to me by Dr Pearson for the situation
to take the ~~Education~~ Field, but he was
in the North, and did not respond.
He is a member of the Methodist
Church, North. Being anxious to
lose no time, I cast about me
to secure the services of some other
available person, and hit upon Mr
Douglas, for the reasons already given.
For reasons of a purely clerical nature
it is not probable that Mr Douglas
will remain long in his present
position. Besides a good teacher
is not necessarily a good administrator;
and when we have schools
sufficient to require a special
superintendent I will appoint one.
So, my dear friend, tell our good brethren
at the North to correspond with me,
and they will find no want of heart
consideration and kindness. So the
colored people are circulated and
instructed and elevated, I care not what

does it. I am willing, may Sir, will be happy to cooperate with any society or sect or set of citizens who will heartily engage in this charitable work. My charity in this matter is not bounded by religious sects or names. It is the result, I trust, of a large and enlightened benevolence, based on considerations of Christianity, humanity, and the teachings of a sound political economy.

A word or two about Dr Warren, the late Superintendent, and I will close this already too lengthy communication.

His leaving his situation as Supt was his own voluntary act, not by any removal of him. After a close examination of the land, in which I took the assistance of Genl Whittlesey, the then disbursing officer of the Bureau, I could not see that I was authorized to pay him more than $1200 per annum. I so informed him. Dr Warren said he could not afford to remain for that compensation. Of course, that was an end to all further arrangements on the

subject. I had not then received the authority to pay the Supt of Education $1,800 per annum; and I did not receive it until after Dr Warren had taken his departure to the North: otherwise he ~~xxx~~ might not have left, as, had I received the authority earlier to pay $1800 per annum to the Supt of education, his compensation would have been reduced. But Dr Warren's conduct in the matter, as compared with Mr Douglass, who is willing to work for $1200 per annum, would seem indicate that the Dr was working more for mercenary than charitable purposes. Though I did not relieve Dr Warren of his position, candor requires me to say I do not expect that he voluntarily relinquished. It is true, as you say in your letter he wrote good reports, but that was all the recommendation he possessed for the situation. Very indolent, either by age, or nature and having spent much of his life in the duties, from this consideration alone he ~~xxx~~ is utterly unfitted for the duties of Supt of Contraband in the Southern states.

He has not sufficient industry and activity to make him useful in the great work of canvassing, teaching, and establishing schools. Giving much the greater part of the four months I was in charge of the Bureau attendant to Dr Warren's resignation, he spent the principal part of the time reading newspapers and smoking his pipe.

This is no way for a public servant to spend his time.

To this all this may be added Dr Warren's unsuitableness for the position of Supt of Colored education, that he is wholly without tact and address, and not at all qualified to arouse and direct public sentiment in favor of this great interest. On the contrary, instead of making friends and propitiating public sentiment for the colored people, he was, by his want of good sense and sound judgment, making enemies and increasing the difficulties already too large, in the way of fixing

a good system for the education of the colored people.

Finally, the extent of the school interest, as developed so far, does not require a special, separate superintendent. I can overlook it without trouble, and, without undue egotism, think I can do it as well as any one I could employ at a compensation of $1800 per annum. When the school interest is sufficiently extensive to require it, I will approve a superintendent, and will try to make the best selection I can for the great interest involved.

I will send you in a day or two copies of many letters I have written on this subject, and the answers thereto; and though the papers may appear voluminous, I beg you will carefully peruse them. From them I am sure you will be convinced that I have acted on the broad principle of the widest and most elevated catholicity in regard to the great work of colored education.

I am, Genl, very respy, your friend and obedt. Servt. Thos. J. Wood.

Providence 23 November 1866

Dear Sir

When you lectured in this city you said to me that you might be able to appoint an evening to speak in behalf of the Freedmen some time in December, We are anxious that you should do so and to say something also in favor of the "Industrial School" in Washington under the care of Miss Harris a lady from Rhode Island, You will recollect that I pledged for your service as much as would obtain elsewhere to aid your favorite Project, Mr Bigelow of your City who will hand you this letter has presented the claims of the Industrial School before referees to Lorn Lading here and they are unite in urging me to write you respectfully soliciting your presence ~~here~~ when you come east. Will you please write me if you can be manage it,

Very respectfully
Your Obt Svt
Seth Padelford
President, R.I. Freedmen's Aid Soc.

To Gen O. O. Howard
Washington

The American Missionary Association,
— AND —
The Western Freedmen's Aid Commission.

ADVISORY BOARD.
Hon. WM. PENN NIXON, Rev. G. M. MAXWELL, D. D.
Rev. H. M. STORRS, D. D. EDWARD HARWOOD, Esq.

OFFICE, 93 WEST SIXTH STREET,

Rev. E. M. CRAVATH, Secretary.
THOMAS KENNEDY, Esq., Treasurer.
LEVI COFFIN, General Agent.

Cincinnati, Nov. 23d 1866

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard
Comm. Bureau R. F. & A. L. Washington D.C.

General.

I have the honor to state that by the unanimous voice of this Advisory Board and the General Officers of the A. M. A. and W. F. A. C. it is deemed very important for the success of our work that you should visit some of the principal cities in the Southern and address the people in behalf of the Freedmen. Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Indianapolis & Detroit are the cities of the greatest influence and at all these cities large meetings can be held and a decided impulse given to our work. You will notice that the two Societies in this field have entered upon the new year of work under one administration in order to secure greater efficiency, & economy.

We enter on the work hopefully, and have sent some fifty teachers to the field from this office up to the present time. There is great

need however of a new impetus being given to the collecting work. This department has never been thoroughly canvassed and the new collecting agents would receive great assistance by the holding of large meetings at central points. I know that your time and strength are both severely tasked, but I think you have never visited this department to address the people in behalf of the Freedmen. Could you give us a little time in January, you could do a good work for the education of the Freedmen, which no other man can do for us. Hoping that you will be able to return a favorable answer to our request,

I am,

General,

Very Truly Your Obt. Servant
E. M. Cravath,
Sec. Middle Dept.

Cincinnati Ohio
November 26th 1880

American Missionary
Association

Cravath Rev C.M.
Secy &c

States that by the unanimous voice of the Advisory Board it is considered that a series of addresses by Genl Howard in behalf of the freedmen in the principal western cities would be of the greatest benefit in stimulating contributions. Yes if Genl. H. can spare the time in January. and

B writes that in Feb has engaged to go to following places & can possibly get away from it. If they will combine their efforts & collect the people will speak directly at that point Wed

Rec'd Nov 28th 1880

Boston has called Mr
combine the two
Money will be devoted to
Charitable purposes