ALL MONEY LETTERS, AND LETTERS CONCERNING PACKAGES OF CLOTHING, &C., SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO W. E. WHITING, 53 JOHN STREET, NEW YORK.

53

American Missionary Association:

No. 53 JOHN STREET.

PRESIDENT—REV. E. N. KIRK, D.D., Boston, Mass.

REV. GEORGE WHIPPLE, *N. Y.*
REV. M. E. STRIEBY, *N. Y.* } *Sec's.*
REV. J. R. SHIPHERD, *Chicago.*

E. KETCHUM, ESQ., *Treasurer, N.Y.*
W. E. WHITING, ESQ., *Asst. Treas., N.Y.*
REV. E. P. SMITH, *Gen. Field Agent, N.Y*

New York, Jan 23, 1867

Major Gen. O. O. Howard
Commissioner
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir,

I have heard that the name of Gen. O. Brown has been before you for the position of Adj Gen. made vacant by the resignation of Gen. Thomas.

I have no means of knowing what other names may be presented for this office, hence what I write will not be regarded as opposed any other person; but I do want to express my sincere conviction

that Gen. Brown possesses peculiar qualifications for such an office. Unremitting devotion to the cause of the Freedmen, for many years, has given him much familiarity with military & Bureau regulations, and very full, and minute knowledge of what is needed to be done for them. He is an earnest friend of the Freedmen, while he is at the same time very cautious not to transgress the rules which govern his official action.

He is not a professor of religion, but in all other respects, I think he would meet your expectations.

Can you favor the application?

A few words in reply will be regarded as a favor.

Yours truly. G. Whipple.

New York
Jan 23 '67

Whipple Rev. G.
Sec A. M. A.

Recommends Gen.
O. Brown for Sen-
ior Adjt-Genl. vice
Thomas resigned

WILLARD'S HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan 23 1867

Maj Gen O. Howard
Commissioner for Freedmen
Washington D.C.

Sir

We have the honor to send you a series of Wilson's Readers with maps, for your inspection. As a system of education, especially for the juvenile mind, we claim that they are superior to any other published, and we hope that you will agree with us and with the expressed opinion of the influential authorities which we submit to you, many of whom are officers of the Bureau under your control

We believe that this system

WELLARD'S HOTEL

WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan 23 1865

Mr Luke P. Atwood
Summer Hill Farm
Northfield Ct.

Sir

We have the honor to
inform you of our Welcome
Reception with money, for your
Patriotism. As soon as the
Government, authorizes the
payment, we shall, be glad that
you will inform us, and we will
forward you, Vouchers
that you can sign & return
with the enclosed envelope
the inclosed certificate
we shall be glad to see, many
of your friends at this
Summer on the 4th of the
Month. We shall that day

of education is peculiarly adapted to the character and present condition of the freedmen and if it meets with your approval, we respectfully request your assistance and co-operation in its introduction in the freedmen schools.

We have the honor to remain your

Most obt. svts,
Henry Brown
for G. W. N.

Recd. Jany. 25th 1867.

Philadelphia Jan. 23d 1867

Major Genl O. O. Howard:

Dear Sir.

In answer to your letter of the 19th inst. relative to the date when our Society desires you to Lecture &c, in reply, I would say, Thursday Evening Feb. 28th, will suit us.

Judge Bond is to Lecture on the 14th of Feb., taking for his theme the present Condition & prospects of the Colored People of Md. Now if you will follow him we will be very glad. Please give us your Subject when you write. If you cannot come on the 28th of Feb. We can get the hall for the 21st.

Now if you should find it out of your power to come on either of the above dates please name a date which will suit you, and inform us thereof and we will see whether we can procure the Hall accordingly.

Yours Very Respectfully
Wm Still

Chairman &c

P.S. Please answer immediately as we have the refusual of the Hall for the Evenings named only for two days. W.S.

Texas Jany 24th 1867

Major Genl Howard.

My Dear Sir.

I take the liberty to trespass upon your time and patience, by sending you the enclosed copy of a letter addressed to the Hon. B. Henderson, Senator from this State, asking for it your consideration.

The information which it contains came to me from a variety of sources but mostly from Northern Louisiana — Mississippi and Alabama — and is such as to satisfy my own mind. The assistance asked for, will only be needed when absolutely necessary, and is asked — and will extend to all engaged in planting

the small or large plan
and without distinction
of color - Whatever is done
should be done through
your bureau - you
have all the appliances at
hand, and could go into
operation at once, if Congress
should so authorize it.
I had a conversation
with Genl Sherman on
the subject, and he
warmly approves of some
such plan, and believes
that it is humane and
just, and would be
productive of great good
feeling - If you see
no objections to some plan
of the kind and deem
it necessary - I should
like to have you see Mr
Henderson, & Mr Eliot of

the houses to whom I have
sent a copy of the
communication, and solicit
their attention and
co-operation –

I have the honor to remain
Very respectfully
Your obt Svt
Samuel E. Watman

57

St. Louis Mo. Jan 24th 1867

Sherman, J. E.

Encloses a Statement on the suffering and destitution of the South.

St. Louis, Jany 22d 1867.

Dear Sir

From letters and other sources of information I learn that there is likely to be great destitution and suffering in the South, arising from the failure of crops in many portions of that country.

While Congress has been occupied with political questions which agitate the country, the true condition of the South and the near approach of its inhabitants to almost famine and ruin have escaped its attention.

The high price of Cotton stimulated the planting of that staple, and caused the planters to neglect growing grain and other articles of food, believing as they did, that with fair crops of cotton they would be able to supply themselves therewith from the granaries of the West, at a much cheaper rate than it could be grown on their own lands. The energies and labor of the South, aided by northern capital, with the enterprise of a large number of adventurous men from the east and west, were all concentrated on this one object.

Various causes have arisen tending to prostrate the people, leaving them nearly ruined, among which I may more especially mention the following, which could not have been foreseen or provided against: — the too great drought at one season, which

destroyed and blasted their corn; too much rain at another season which injured their cotton; and then the army-worm which came out of the ground in vast numbers destroying what was left. From these causes, all the well matured plans, the toil and skill of the people, were rendered unavailing.

Plantations which should have yielded from 800 to 1000 bales of cotton, yielded but from 150 to 250 bales, which was not sufficient to much more than pay for the labor employed.

Another season is rapidly approaching when preparation should be made for planting, but the planters are in debt and without credit and it will be impossible for them to employ labor if they have not the means to procure food for those they employ. Merchants, even if disposed, are unable to make advances or render any assistance to the planter, owing to their heavy losses during the past season and consequently a large number of plantations must remain unworked or but partially worked, and a vast number of persons unemployed who must endure great suffering if not die from starvation.

The same terrible scenes of distress from famine are likely to ensue in our own land as did in India during the past season.

Our government, I doubt not, would come to the rescue when fully aroused to the necessity, and feed the starving millions, but not I fear, before much suffering had ensued and many had perished, and then it would be as an act of charity or as a gratuity.

It has occurred to my mind that a plan might be devised which would save all the anxiety and suffering which would ensue, as well as great cost to the government; and which would revive the drooping spirits of the planter and the laborer at the South, and give to the country that which, just now, it so much needs, a good cotton crop; while every section of the country would be alike benefitted thereby. The plan suggested to my mind is, that Congress should authorize the supplying of the planters, large and small, and all others engaged in producing cotton, who so requested, with provisions for themselves, hands and stock; the cost of the supplies to be a lien on the crop, and to be paid from the first proceeds of sale. The supplies could be furnished through the "Freedmens Bureau", or supply agents who should be officers of the army. The security cotton the government could control through its agents for collecting the government tax. The supply agents of the "Freedmens Bureau", could render their returns for supplies, which should be furnished monthly, unless where it would be necessary to supply some sections for the season. The party asking for supplies, should state under oath, his inability to purchase supplies, also, the number of acres of land he has under cultivation; the number of hands by him employed, and the number of head of stock. Such other precautions as might be necessary for security should be taken. The amount of supplies should be limited only by the necessity - say ten, twenty, thirty,

forty or fifty millions. Non-interest bearing treasury notes could be issued from time to time, as required, to make purchases. Purchases should be made by the Commissary Department, the same as for the army, so that the whole expenditure would be made without additional cost to the government, and which would be re-imbursed within one year or a shorter period. Under an arrangement of this kind the gratuitous supply of provisions by the government should cease, unless to the aged and infirm. All who are able to work should be required to work, and if they did not the consequences must rest with themselves, as work, with food raiment and fair wages would be afforded to all. Provision should be made that the laborer receive fair wages, and secured, if necessary, in the same.

The plan to my mind is simple and feasable but might be improved upon. My object is to bring the subject to the attention of Congress, and to urge it to take some prompt and vigorous action thereon.

Famine is in the land or soon will be: the wolf is at the door, and something must be done to prevent it from entering and destroying thousands and tens of thousands of helpless women and children. We can avert it and it should be averted. The laws of humanity and christianity all require that we should. Besides, it is to the interest of the government, outside of that broad and just philanthropy which should govern us as a nation.

The government has levied a tax of three cents per pound on cotton, which is equal to $12 per bale — If but little cotton be produced the revenue from it will be small — If a fair crop or only half a crop be produced, it would yield a revenue of twenty

five millions to the government, besides the five or ten per cent additional on the income tax.

But, there are still higher motives which should influence us in this matter. As a reconstruction measure I believe it would be more potent than any which has yet been tried. The great difficulty has been that while the South has been conquered and caused to surrender, and the rebellion crushed, their hearts and purposes have not been conquered; and I fear that with returning strength they will again attempt to overthrow the government. Believing this I also believe it to be the imperative duty of Congress to require guarantees, and to enact such laws as will forever prevent ambitious and designing politicians and bad men from attempting to inaugurate another rebellion.

When the South sees that we are firm and determined in doing that which we deem essential to the preservation of the country, and are not actuated by vindictive feelings and a desire to punish them, a different feeling will prevail there towards the government. Generosity and kindness on our part will beget kindlier feelings on theirs; and we may come to know and understand each other better; and mutual esteem, respect and even affection will soon take the place of bitterness and animosity. Laws which are now deemed essential to our safety and preservation will be no longer

necessary, and may be rescinded; and the lion which now requ
chains to bind him, then may be led by a silken cord.

I am moved to present this subject to your attention ho
that it will meet your consideration; and that you will take
necessary and immediate steps to have some action of Congre
taken upon it. There is no time to be lost, for you ~~may~~ may soo
hear the wails of the sufferers.

What is asked now, is not charity, but to aid people to
help themselves and thereby prevent the necessity of charity.

To defer this until next Congress will be too late to be effe
it must be done now. I believe the great American heart wil
bear Congress out in any generous and liberal action which it m
take. We have seen that, when it so may choose, it can put m
ures through on the double quick. This is one that will brook no
and prompt action will be sanctioned and justified, now and fore
by all those who are not actuated by revengeful feelings. By suc
action, great suffering will be prevented, and prosperity and pea
will soon be fully restored.

England, during the famine in Ireland in 1847, approp
over Eighty millions to relieve the sufferers in that country! W
should we not do likewise?—only exercising the foresight to rende
assistance before famine has entered the land, rather than after.
think it the part of wisdom & sound policy to adopt forthwith some
plan.

Very Respectfully
Your obt Svt
James E Watson

Office of J. M. Warren & Co.

61

Troy, N.Y. Jany 24 1867

Major Gene O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I have announced that you are unable from the press of official duties to lecture here at the time advertised yet I trust if you find it convenient to leave Washington during the latter part of Feby or early in March that you will favor us with your presence.

If you come shall be happy to renew the invitation to be my guest.

Yours truly

James W. Greene

Troy N.Y.

Jan 22. '67

Greene J. W.

States that the
notice that Genl Howard
will lecture at Troy has
been withdrawn. Renews
invitation.

James E. Nettleton

Necessary endorsement

Charleston, S. C.
Jany 24. 1867.

Major Genl. O. O. Howard,
Comr. F. Bureau
Washington D.C.

The bearer, Mr. Crocker, has been in the service of the country nearly forty years on the Southern Coast. He has rendered very important service during the war, as Commander of Govt. transports. He rescued from the rebels, the Str. St. Helena, which is now laid up & decaying. He desires to buy this boat, & to run her among the islands to accommodate the freedmen. Genls. Scott, Sickles, & Tyler endorsed his application. Capt. C. is a very worthy man, & for his long

and valuable services deserves something at the hands of the Government. If his merits were known at Hd. Qrs. & the condition of this steamer, I think the Govt. would sell her at a very low figure to Capt C.

If you can render him any assistance, you will aid not only a worthy servant of the Govt. but also, indirectly, the many freedmen on the Coast, who will get transportation under Capt C. at reasonable rates, & get civil treatment

Very Respectfully
M. Kenel

68

War Massachusetts
Jan. 24. 1867

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
U. S. Army

General:

I thank you for your letter of the 21st inst.

I shall be glad to accept the first appointment you may have for me, and trust you will bear my case

you need.

I shall be in readiness at a moment's notice.

Very Respectfully
Your obt servt

C. H. Howard

Wash. Mass
Jan 22. 67

Howard O. N.

Thanks Gen Howard for his letter of 21st inst and states willingness to accept appointment.

Recd. Jan. 23rd 1867.

400 S. 9th St.
Phila. Jan. 24. 1867.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I was very glad to get a letter from you last Saturday. The book came also which Mamma was glad to get and is very much obliged to you for.

I have been so busy lately with my lessons that I have not had time to answer your letter.

The wether has been very stormy here and the walking is quite bad though it has not snowed for several days.

I remain your
little friend
M. Isabella James.

New York, Jan. 24th, 1867.

65

Major General O. Howard,

Sir, We send you copies of Willson's Readers, Spellers, & Charts for your personal inspection. Believing ~~that~~ them to be especially adapted for the education of the Freedmen, we are desirous of obtaining your recommendation of them — and, if possible, your assistance in their introduction into the Freedmen schools, should the books in every way meet your approval.

We have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

Yr. obd. Servants,

Harper & Brothers.

Newport, Jan. 24th 1861.

Major General Wherrard,

Sir, We send you copies of Williams Harden, Hughes & Clark's for your personal inspection, believing that these letters especially adapted for the education of the Freedmen, are an delicacy of addressing them permanently. Hence — and if agreeable, you appointment to the Freedmen schools, should be kept in very most your approval.

We have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

J. Hodges Pennock.

Charles Wheaton.