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Washington City. D.C.
March 27th 1867.

To
Maj Gen O. O. Howard -
Dear Sir -

I have the honor to inform you that at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the "Columbia Hospital for Women and Lying in Asylum" held at the Hospital Building on the 21st inst. you were unanimously elected a member of the Board of Incorporators, and also a member of the Board of Directors of said institution.

Respectfully Your obt
J. N. Coombs.
Secretary.

Bowdoin College March 27
/67

Major General Howard

My dear Sir,

I am indebted to you for repeated tokens of remembrance, the last of which was the newspaper containing the Act of Incorporation of the Howard University. I have been greatly interested in all that has happened to you in which you have had concern. I think you have perhaps had seasons of trial & discouragement, since the surrender of Lee's army, more severe, at any rate more annoying than any during the war. I feared, at one time, that the Bureau would be entirely overthrown. But a guiding hand has sustained you in a course of unpleasant duty & labor. I judge, that the country appreciates, in good measure, what you have done and are doing in behalf of the cause of righteousness

between man & man.

Your efforts in behalf of the Congregational Church in Washington, I see, promise to be successful. I received the circular which you sent me. I trust you will believe me, that, had I the means, I would gladly contribute to so important an object, & when an opportunity presents I shall do so in a small way. We have been kept on rather close rations there several years. & I have, beyond my wont, been compelled to regard the old sorrow about precept. "Be just before you are generous." The establishment of a Congregational Church & society in Washington is a most interesting event to me, you may be sure.

We are having some religious interest in the region about, & in the College. A morning meeting for prayer is well sustained. There are several places in the State where there is religious revival & in some very remarkable interest. We of the College are hoping from our new President that a manifest impulse to the general life

the College, quite as much indeed, to its literary & scientific, as to its religious life.

I take the liberty to express to you my personal thanks for all you have been permitted & enabled to do for our common country, for the sacrifices you have made & the distinguished service you have rendered. With kindest regards to your brother Charles, I am, my dear General, respectfully & cordially your sincere friend,

A. S. Packard

Writing in haste I have omitted, I perceive, my chief object in this note. It strikes me that if politicians will let it alone, the University wh. bears your name will be of incalculable importance. I see Mr Peabody's recent gift is to be expended very much in common schools. It seems as if the time were coming, when the colored people will be educated far beyond the mass of the whites.

Bowdoin College
Mch 27 '67

Packard A.S.

Thanks Genl. Howard
for News-papers &c.
friendly letter.

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Richmond, Fort Bend
County Texas
[C3-Mar 27, 1867]

Maj Gen O O Howard

General I have
the honor to report that I arrived
home safe with my Freedmen
on the 26th ultmo, I found considerable
trouble on the way at different places
to prevent people from persuading
my people from leaving me and
when we arrived at Mobile and
New orleans some persons tried to
persuade them that I was going
to take them to Cuba, in New Orleans
I had to take some of my oldest
men to Gen Mowers head quarters
to satisfy their minds that I had
no such Idea, They are all perfec=
=tly delighted with this Country
and those who left friends and relatives
behind regret that they did not come
out with them and have written to
them to come if they possibly can
I am very much pleased with my hands
they are all well behaved and good
disposed, and industrious, The only regret
I have is that I was not able to get

as many as I need If I could get
more, that is if there was a certainty
of employing a hundred good hands
and could get the transportation for
them I would return immediately after
them, They could get out here in
good time to work the crop,
we have just had a sleet and snow
storm which has killed all the corn
and cotton that has been planted
and will have the effect to
make the crop very late, Hence
an additional amount of labor
will be in demand, say to Doctor
Howard and parson Roberts that
if they are still in the notion to
colonize the land I propose to
donate to the Freedmen I would
like to hear from them in addition
to the half league I propose to donate
I have a friend here that will
donate the half of another league
the land I propose to donate is in
the section of country in which
New Braunfels is situated (my land is
in Blanco County) you will see by
reference to the Texas Almanack for
1867, the agricultural productions

of that County, I will send you a
Copy of The Tax Almanack as
soon as I can procure one which
you will find gives pretty general
information on all subjects pertaining
to this State,
The freedpeople are all doing
remarkably well this year all
the plantations I found in good
order where they had sufficient
labour, Our labour is so scarce
here that people have resorted
to every strategy to get hands
even gone so far as to entice
labourers away from employers
after contract, I found on my
return that some of mine that
I left at home and had contracted
with had been induced to leave
by some of my neighbors
That sort of thing has a very
demoralizing influence and makes
the labour uncertain and hence
reduces the price of labour
Hoping General that you will
excuse me for thus trespassing
upon your time but feeling that
that I owed you a debt of grat-

=tude for the assistance you render
me of fulling my duty to report
back the result of my trip
I conclude to pen you this
line in acknowledgment of
what I have read

I am General very Respectfully
Your obliged Fellow
Serv't
Jno C Mitchell

P.S. The copy of my contract
that I left with you Chas
Howard has been forwarded to
Capt Rock the Com for the
County

J C M

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Washington D.C.
March 27. 1873

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard
Pres't Y. M. C. A.
Washington D.C.

General:

Will you authorize me to call a Special meeting of our Association on Friday evening next to consider the Resolutions adopted at the recent meeting of Pastors &c. held at Assembly Church recommending our Association to canvass the city, hold Public Meetings in Hall of House Representatives in behalf of the suffering South &c.?

Very Respectfully
Your Ob't Serv't
A. S. Browne
V. Pres't Y. M. C. A.

P.S. Judge Chase tells me he will meet the Board of Trustees of the Building Association any night this week at 8 P.M. at the Rooms of the Association ASB

Washington D.C.
March 27. '67

Brown A.G.
Vice President.

Wishes to be authorized to call a meeting of the U. M. C. A. (Special).

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HEAD-QUARTERS
Military District of Mississippi,
Vicksburg Miss., March 27 1867.

Dear General.

I have received yours of the 16. Making inquiry in regard to the position of School Superintendent and mentioning the name of of Lieut Col. McFallen. late A.S.D.

I have been able to secure the services of no person in whose competency I had confidence for that position & have performed the service myself - If Col McFallen has your confidence as regards qualification for the position I will employ him with pleasure. Please inform him to that effect.

There is another subject Genl upon which I have contemplated writing to you unofficially for some time. The moral condition & morals of the freedpeople

The rising generation

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HEAD-QUARTERS
Military District of Mississippi,
Vicksburg Miss., 1867.

receive and are profiting by the instruction of many well organized schools in this state especially those at this place Natchez, Jackson Lauderdale & Brookhaven, as well as many smaller institutions.
The Minds of the young are active and expansive and capable of improvement — But the adult and especially those beyond twenty five or thirty are not I fear susceptible of profiting by the instruction imparted in the schools — There is however a branch of instruction by which I think they might be immensely benefited. The system under which they were reared was not conducive to morality Virtue or honesty. they could see no wrong in lying to avoid punishment often merited — hunger often drove them to theft & when

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HEAD-QUARTERS
Military District of Mississippi,
Vicksburg Miss., 1867.

that was not the case, they considered if punished they had expiated their crime— The frequent seperation of husband and wife by sale, almost forbade all idea of constancy and virtue— their condition in this respect was not improved by the large gathering of them into the cities, "Contraband" Camps & our armies.

Can anything be done to improve their moral condition, what they require is plain, simple instruction in the rudimental principles of morality and Christianity— that they must speak the truth, be virtuous, preserve the marriage vows, refrain from stealing, & fulfill their contracts not only because of the laws of the State but because it is the command of their God. The lack of instruction of this kind

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HEAD-QUARTERS
Military District of Mississippi,
Vicksburg Miss., 1867.

to the adult is indirectly injuring the rising generation by association. There never was a more inviting field for the missionary - The negro profoundly grateful to those who have conferred on him his freedom, would listen to them with attention, and profit by their advice. There never will be a time ~~when~~ so favorable, as time advances he will become more self reliant, & less susceptible to admonition and advice.

I hope the deep interest I take in this subject will be considered a sufficient apology for this intrusion. Let me assure you that any action that may be taken in the work of improving the moral condition of the freed people will receive the sincere support of

Yours truly Alvan C Gillem
Bvt Maj Gen

Vicksburg Miss
March 27. '67

Gilem A.
Bvt. Maj. General

States that he has found
no person whom he has
confidence in to perform
the duties of School Supt.
If Genl. Howard has
confidence in Col. McFallen, he will appoint
him with pleasure.
Wishes to know if some plan
cannot be adopted for
the Education Morally of the
Freedpeople over 20 yrs. of age.

ANSWERED
APR 9 1867

Recd. Apl. 3. 1867.

Private

Washington City.
March 27. 1867.

To

Major General O. O. Howard,
Commissioner &c.

My dear General;

I took your kind note to General Townsend yesterday afternoon, and was referred to Genl Canby, as my papers had been recommitted to the Board of Claims. I learned at Genl C's office that he is out of town, and expected to be absent several days. This seems to be the beginning of another round of the circle, and series of official conflict, which makes me hesitate to give you any further trouble about the matter of the claim. I have pursued it thus far, as much for other parties who are injured by the delay, as for myself - and at an outlay which comes wholly upon me, & which I am little able to bear.

I am an applicant for a position in the Pension Bureau in Washington, for which the past year I have been the disbursing Agent in North Carolina. If I obtain such a position, so as to render my subsistence secure, and open the prospect of ability, in course of time, to

meet my obligations, I am disposed to pursue this claim no further.

I became responsible for these accounts, and settled them as far as I have been able. A portion I have settled since the presentation of the claim, and under stress of law; and with a portion yet unsettled, I have not only been ~~[illegible]~~ annoyed, but harrassed in a manner that has embittered the recollection of all my labor during the war, and has rendered life irksome, or, if that is too strong an expression, has cast over it a shadow which money cannot dispel. I am inclined therefore to let the claim drop, and moulder in the "waste places" of the War Department.

The personal sacrifices I have made during the war, of which this is a part, are, all told, but a bagatelle, compared with that of those who came out of the conflict scarred and maimed. But my efforts were given con amore in a channel best calculated to render my weak strength efficient in attaining the object for which we were struggling. And I am anxious, as I think is natural, to bear some testimony that that wonderful period was not passed by me in apathy, nor in a selfish appropriation of the misfortunes of my country to individual interests. The blood that flows in my veins is from a fountain that, on one side of the house, flowed at the Battle of Bunker Hill, & the subsequent conflicts

of the Revolution, to the Capture of Cornwallis - and on the other Side, was equally true to the County, in the ~~results~~ operations on the Northern Frontier, which resulted in the Capture of Burgoyne. The early impressions made upon me by the Revolutionary Stories of one of these Ancestors of which he was himself a part, & whom I remember in my childhood as for Several years the last surviving Soldier of the Revolution in my native town, - these impressions were freshened & intensified by the Scenes of the recent conflict, and Sustained me in the part I acted, little fitted as I was for Service in such trying times. And perhaps they may now account in part for the Solicitude I show on the Subject I am now writing you of.

Relinquishing this claim, I would like, in lieu of it, and of any pecuniary recompense, an honorable recognition from the War Department, of the Services rendered. What I would most covet, would be an honorary or brevet Commission, entitling me, from May 1864 to the close of the War, to the Constructive rank of a Volunteer Surgeon in the Army.

I was engaged heart & Soul in the Service from 1861 to the breaking up of the military Hospitals. This Staff appointment, of Superintendent of White Refugees, was

the only military position which I held, on which such a recognition as I desire could be based; and it brought upon me, especially in the period of the Pestilence and at the advent of Sherman's Army, multitudinous responsibilities, which one man could hardly have sustained in any other than military times. In civil times I could have said as Moses did to the Israelites: "How can I myself alone bear your cumbrance, and your burden and your strife"? —

Without some such recognition of services I come out of the war with nothing to show for services or sacrifices. I would be satisfied that it should depend on such voluntary recommendation as may be obtained from the General officers who were successively in command of the Department: Generals Burnside, Foster, Peck, Palmer, Harlan, Burge, Duncan & Paine, and Generals Schofield & Sherman who were more or less cognizant of the work. —

If such a testimonial would be an aegis, I would be glad, General, to have you favour it. — And I address this to you partly to obtain your opinion. —

I shall not call this morning as I promised, as nothing can be accomplished until I see Gen. Canby. —

Very Respectfully
Yr. Obt. Svt.
J. W. Page