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Private

New Bedford
Mar 28. 67

Dear General

Capt Stuart Barnes late of Petersburg Va. wants me to recommend him for some office. I should like to do it if I could. Is there any thing in his record as Asst Comd of Va Bureau that ought to prevent.

Yours Truly
T. D. Eliot

Genl Howard

113

Youngstown March 28th

General Howard.

Respected Sir

I saw by yesterday's paper a very sad account of the destitution of some southern children, children crazy with hunger. I spoke of it last evening and some one handed me a five dollar which I double and send to you for the poor starving children.

Yours respectfully
Frances E W Harper.

Post office 413 Lombard st
Philadelphia care of Mrs Stell.

89. Thompson St
New York
March. 28. 1867

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard.

Sir. I write in behalf of Mrs Harris of this City, who called upon you, a few weeks ago, asking your advice concerning her husband who enlisted as a single man, without her knowledge, and joined the 40th U. S. Regt, commanded by Col Myers. Genl Howard may possibly remember that he kindly gave her money to pay her fare home, and otherwise interceded for her. Her husband's name is Wm H Harris of New York, formerly a slave in Virginia - he is therefore a freedman. Mrs H. is a respectable christian woman, and his lawful wife - I have her certificate. She desires to obtain a small support from his wages, or as she has been informed to get an allowance that belongs to her.

Will Genl Howard have the kindness to advise me in the matter, so that I may be rightly directed.

I am Genl. Your Obedient Servant

Henry Highland Garnet

148

100

Washington City
28th March 67

Genl Howard.

This will introduce Genl Morton & Col Whittemore both good men & true and in whom you may place implicit confidence. Any favor you can show them or any service you can render them people will be as a favor done to money & fortune to me.

Truly
R. W. Taylor

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Thursday evening
Peekskill March 28th /67

Dear Howard.

I have just received your letter of yesterday, and thank you sincerely for the same. I will be in Washington next Thursday if you will be there and can go with me to see the Mexican Minister; if not convenient for you then, on any other day you will be at leisure. If then I do not hear otherwise from you, I shall come on Thursday

Very sincerely yours
C. H. Rundell

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Penn^a College
Gettysburg, Feb 29/67

Gen. O. O. Howard U.S.

My worthy friend:

I had hoped before this to have had a visit from you at my own home but your time, I know, is very much occupied. Next summer I trust you will be able to get off for a few days, and rest with me in the country. As long as you remain, you still do just as you please without any restrictions.

But I write more particularly to inquire whether at this time, during my Spring vacation in the College, I could make a tour of inquiry on the field covered by

Rev Mr Tarrin, Geo. H. Stuart, Rev E. T. Smith, mutual friends, would be gratified to have me make this tour of inspection. I have had letters from all of them, and others, on the subject.

M. L. S.

your Bureau. I am deeply interested in the work claiming your special attention and I should be glad, if I could render the cause any service. I would be pleased to prepare an article containing facts, the result of personal observation for a Quarterly of which I am Editor. Perhaps one of your brothers could accompany me. The clergymen I know very well. We labored together after the battle of Gettysburg and he has written me several times since.

I would want nothing but mere expenses. Transportation, I presume, your department could furnish. My object is to make myself useful.

Very sincerely yours
M. L. Stoever.

Gettysburg
Mch 29th '67

Stower M. D.

Wishes Genl. Howard to pay him a visit.
States that he would like very much to make a tour of inspection through the South, and would like to be furnished with transportation.

ANSWERED
APR
4
1867

Recd. Apr 2 '67

2

130

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,

Washington, Mar. 29 - 1867.

Dear General.

The deeds of which you spoke some days ago, are I am informed by the clerk, - now in the Register's office and have been put on the record in proper order.

Very truly, yours
L. Walton,

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard,
Present.

Personal

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NATIONAL HOTEL,

J. M. WALTERS, Proprietor.

Norfolk, Va., Mch 29 1867

Maj Genl O O Howard

Dear General

I arrived here last night and think I have the Taylor farm question in the way of settlement.

Before I left Richmond I approved the application of Lieut Cook "to be ordered to another State". He is mixed up in the ~~Stau~~ Staunton quarrel and had better leave. Please send me a good Officer at once to take his place

It is time for me to take the Richmond main.

Yours truly
O. Brown

155

Wash^n. March 30 1867

Dear General

Allow me to introduce to you my son-in-law Major E. Totten of this City who desires to see you on business which he will explain to you but has not explained to me

Very truly
Yours

T. O. Howe

Maj Genl O. O. Howard
Present

Personal

~~HEAD QUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE POTOMAC,~~
Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Hd. Quarr. Assistant Commissioner, State of Virginia.

Richmond, Va., March 30th 1867.

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

Dear General,

On my return from Norfolk last night I found your communication of the 28th inst in regard to Lieut G. T. Cook. I had written you a brief note on the subject while in Norfolk which I presume you have received.

The whole matter can be best arranged by assigning Lieut Cook to duty in another State.

If he remains here, I shall be compelled to take notice of certain charges which might result seriously to him but which I think will not prevent his being a valuable Bureau officer in another field.

Received a communication from General Whittlesey this morning, asking for certain information in regard to the purchase and distribution of rations for the indigent whites. I beg leave to submit whether the whole system of purchase and distribution should not be the same as

that already in operation for the Freedmen.

I have consulted General Schofield, who concurs in this view of the subject.—

Said, General

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt

O. L. Mower

Bvt. Brig. Genl. Vols

Asst. Comr.

Recd. apl. 1. 67.

Richmond [redacted]
March 30th 67.

Brown O.
Bvt. Brig. Genl. Vols.

Acknowledges receipt of letter in relation to Lieut. G. J. Cook. States that the matter can be best arranged by assigning him to duty in another State, for if he remains in Va. the Genl. will have to take Notice of certain charges which might result seriously to him.

Acknowledges receipt of letter from Genl. Whipple — wishes to know if the distribution and purchase of funds should not be the same as heretofore made

Milwaukee 30th March 1867

Maj Gen Howard

Dear Sir Pardon me for obtruding myself upon your notice — I have from the first felt a deep interest in your efforts to Establish a Church of puritan polity in Washington, and that its pulpit should be filled by an able minister — I see by the last Congregationalist that Dr Bayington is to retire from the pastorate of yr. Church the first of June, In view of which I take the liberty to bring to your notice the Rev John Allison of Plymouth Church of this City as Eminently qualified to succeed Dr. B. Mr Allison possesses a polished address is highly Educated, a ready, fluent, & attractive speaker, seldom reading a written sermon, and above all is a warm hearted whole souled & devoted Christian, In my judgement there are but few men in the Country as well adapted as he is to your Circumstances — He is an indefatigable

worker & the whole aim of his preaching & personal labor seems to be to save souls! — He pompes a great deal of unction & is powerfully persuaine in his preaching & exhortations — He draws to him a great many who are almost persuaded to be Christians and commanes the respect of all classes! I think he pompes the gifts of uniting the discordant materials from which your church is to be built up! — You however may not think so, when you come to know him — it is possible your pulpit is already provided for. if so no harm will come from this letter — Mrs Allison is an accomplished liberally Educated lady pomping a deep tone of piety & a worker! They have one child a lad of 14 or 16 years! — I write this without the knowledge of any one trust you to regard it as confidential! for if my name were used, in connection with it my motives might not be appreciated — Dillon of the Independent has heard him preach, but I do not know what his views are of him — You may know of me by referring to Senator Hone pom this State

Most truly Yours A Finch

Mch 30. 67

Mich A.

I so pleased to hear of the Establishing of the 1st Cong. Church. Learns that Dr. Boynton is going to retire from the pastorage of the Church on the 1st of June - in view of that he very highly recommends Rev. John Allison for Pastor.

Recd. apl 6. '67

Private letter

Spetna Farm Pike Co. Miss. March 30/67

Genl. O. O. Howard

Dear Sir

I took the liberty last year of sending you an account ~~of the~~ my operations with the Freedmen, and I again trespass upon your patience in the same particular, As you may never have received my last year's letter I will briefly refer to some of its Contents, I owned this Farm prior to the War and owned 6 slaves up to the date of emancipation, My Slaves remained at home until the whole sad drama was over but in July 1865 (they were with my full consent) to seek their fortunes out in the broad world, Like the Confederates they ascertained that an independent existence was very hard to maintain and they returned to the plantation on 1st Jan. 1866. I hired one more and employed a family of above 8 others which made me 15 in all.— They all worked with me as servants and remained through the entire year and made for themselves a very good support and almost bread enough to take them through this season. The year was a bad one but we were successful to some extent so far at least as a support was concerned,

This year the same hands have remained, & I have purchased another Farm and have located thereon another family, and have now 31 under my charge and supervision. And who are all dependent on me for their support. They behave very well are not saucy nor impudent, and are not as in Slave Times disposed to claim every thing I have.

They are very slow in their work, and work to very great disadvantage losing far more from misdirected effort than from loss of Time, They are not provident and will not work any on Saturday afternoons

In morals they are not very corrupt and will compare well with any other people of similar advantages. They manifest much desire to learn to read, but have no facilities whatever. I could form a very good school here if the movement were not in advance of the times, but without a better protective guarantee than I now see I could not think of such a thing.

There is very little destitution here among either color. There are many quite poor indeed but not more than 2 per cent of the population can be said to be actually destitute. Our curse is the desire to accumulate. It and politics are the great absorbing questions that now engross the public mind.— Very great fear is felt here in regard to confiscation. It is the real scarecrow of the day. The public mind would like to have more tranquility, but it is frightened by timid newspaper stories that are afloat through the land.

The people are peaceably disposed, but can be led by the leaders just like the ocean waves are driven by the winds.— When the Freedmen can meet with good employers they get along very well, but you cannot conceive ~~how~~ what helpless ~~to~~ creatures they are.

When Reconstruction shall have been fully accomplished and the States are restored to their old status, I am at an entire loss to solve the problem of how the Negro will be shielded.

I am a Southerner, born reared and educated here and never was beyond the limits of the Slave States. I was and am and can be nothing but a Unionist and had no participation or sympathy with the rebellion.— I would like to see the freedmen educated and see the blessings of religion expanded among them

There is one feature here to which I will allude, There is a far greater demand for labor this year than last. Many persons last year refused to hire or have "free Niggers" around them, but this year this class of persons have been quite active in securing laborers, and consequently labor, which was only worth from 8 to $12 then with cotton at 3½ cents, is now worth from 12 to $15. with cotton at 2½.

The Agricultural Journals are profuse in their denunciations of Southern Farmers who do not raise their own supplies at home, I too once echoed that sentiment, but with our soil unadapted to the production of Cereals and well adapted to the production of Cotton We cannot afford to pay hands here to grow breadstuffs An acre here that will not produce over 15 Bushels Corn, will yield half a Bale of Cotton. My great fear is now that cotton may drop below the cost of production, It is not in the power of our wisest men to foretell what would be the suffering of the Blacks here if Cotton should recede to 16 cents and Corn and Meat advance correspondingly. We could not afford them to supply the hands on these thin upland soils, and they would all be driven to the rich Bayous and Alluvial bottoms & such suffering would ensue as is beyond all Calculation. — I was one of a Committee last year appointed by the Agricultural Club of Washington Parish La, to prepare a report in regard to the Minimum rate at which cotton could be produced, allowing $12 per month for labor and last years prices for provisions, The result was set down at 18 cents as the entire cost of raising a pound of cotton

The cost of support including salt and tobacco last year of all my people was about $4 00/100 per head per month, large and small, But I bought the supplies in City Market and charged them only a reasonable advance.

In politics there is the same difference in opinion here that existed during the war; The Union men here side with Congress - the others with the President though none of us have ever understood what was the President's plan for protecting the Freedmen after Reconstruction was an accomplished fact, more apparently he never contemplated leaving the entire matter to the States.?

The Ballot placed in the Freedman's hands in his present rude and helpless state will not raise him much above his present level, In towns and cities organized Committees might secure a portion of their suffrages, but in the interior, the Freedman will have to vote just as his employer does, and his ballot will be but a new machine to him of oppression.

The White masses here have been so grossly deluded by the Press as to suffer themselves led into a war to oppress themselves, And the Blacks are far more easily deluded and will be easier led off after the same illusive lights.

Very truly Yours,

Private

Y. E. Tate
Osyka
Miss

Chicago March 31. 1867.

My dear General & Mrs. Howard.

My daughter is to be married on the evening of the 25th of April, to Mr. Wm E. Strong, late General in the Volunteer service. Her General is desirous that you should be present, if possible, on that, to him and to us, interesting occasion.

We beg to assure you that it would afford Mrs. Ogden and myself real pleasure to have you present at the ceremony.

The recent loss of a sweet, precious child – a daughter of nearly four years – constrains us to make the wedding quiet and of entire informality, nevertheless we bid you a cordial & heartfelt welcome.

Very Faithfully & Sincerely
Your Friend
Mahlon D. Ogden

Major Genl.
O. O. Howard
Washington
D. C.

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No. 408 13th St, Washington D.C.
March 31st 1867.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find ten dolls for building the 1st Cong Church in this city.

Yours Truly
Edward Spalding

To
Maj. Genl O O Howard
Chairman of Building Committee

710

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