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War Department,

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,

Washington, April 15th, 1867.

Dear General

Having from the tenor of your note to me, that you have unintentionally misconstrued my intentions in writing to you before. I conscientiously feel it my duty to prevent (if possible) you from entertaining such an odious opinion of me.

Dear Genl

I have too much respect for your Christian character to solicit a favor from you, that I know you could not conscientiously grant, for I have heretofore too frequently witnessed manifestations of your goodness to presume to ask you to countenance or screen wrong of any kind, on the contrary I know that you regret my misfortune (for mind it is) quite as much as I, and it is as much on account of your feelings as my misconduct that causes me such bitter feelings of remorse.

That the charge against me is widely known I doubt not, and the father of this exceedingly indiscreet girl has been the source of its publication, and from what I had told him prior to this difficulty about your Christian character, he knew that he would work for my removal, by appealing to you as a Christian. Certainly General had I been guilty of the charge he made against me, he would not

have been content to resort to injure me in a mere pecuniary manner which seems to be the height of his ambition.

I send you some letters of recommendation from various persons, on which depends my future welfare. As you will see they have been in the War Department and although the commendations are from some of our ablest men, I was forced to (after a great expense) finally give up all hopes and withdraw my papers, because I had no one of influence to urge my claim.

Genl As I am situated I know not what to do. I did not ask you to retain me here; but asked you give me employment anywhere within the scope of the existence of your command.

I am personally acquainted with Genls Carlin & Gillem and it remains with you whether I can yet be employed or thrown out upon the vicious influences of an uncharitable people. And instead of my past conduct reflecting upon you, my future behavior shall convince you that through your forgiveness I have been able to retrieve my character and become a moral and Christian man, and a still greater comforter to my afflicted mother & orphan sister whose comforts depend on my success.

I am General

As Ever with the greatest respects

Yours &c

Harry H. Porter

I respectfully ask that this letter be confidential

Washington D.C.
April 15th 1867

Burton, Mary H.

makes a clearer explanation to General Howard than his former letter afforded, and requests a position under the Bureau and away from Washington.

Confidential.

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Dubuque. Ia.
Apr 15th '67

To Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard:

Dear Sir

Mr. Saml. L. Paggart, who held rank in your personal staff, I think, in the later stages of the war, now resides here, & has sought the place of a suitor to my eldest Daughter

As I came here while he was absent in the army, I have no means of knowing his visible character before these few last months; & as he

refers me to You for
his army reputation
May I beg Your, Dear
Sir, to inform me, as
a parent ought to
know, - in connection
with such a proposal on
his part. — I am sorry
to engage Your pressed
attention to so personal
a matter. The
cause at stake - I hope may
be an acceptable reason.

Please address in
reply (Yours truly)
Rev. Lyman Whiting.
Dubuque
Ia.

P.S. A universal regret ensued the announcement that you could not lecture here in Feby; — & in my house, that we could enjoy the Offices of hospitality to you. May you sometime find your way to our ears, — as long ago you have to our hearts

Yours etc

L. Whiting.

Dubuque. Ia. April 13 - 67

Whiting, Rev. L. Lyman

Confidential letter.

ANSWERED
APR. 19
1867

Recd. April 19th 1867

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United States Senate Chamber.

Washington. 15 June 1867

Dear General

I have been

but able to say

a few of my details

duties in the city

for the time being.

If the senate

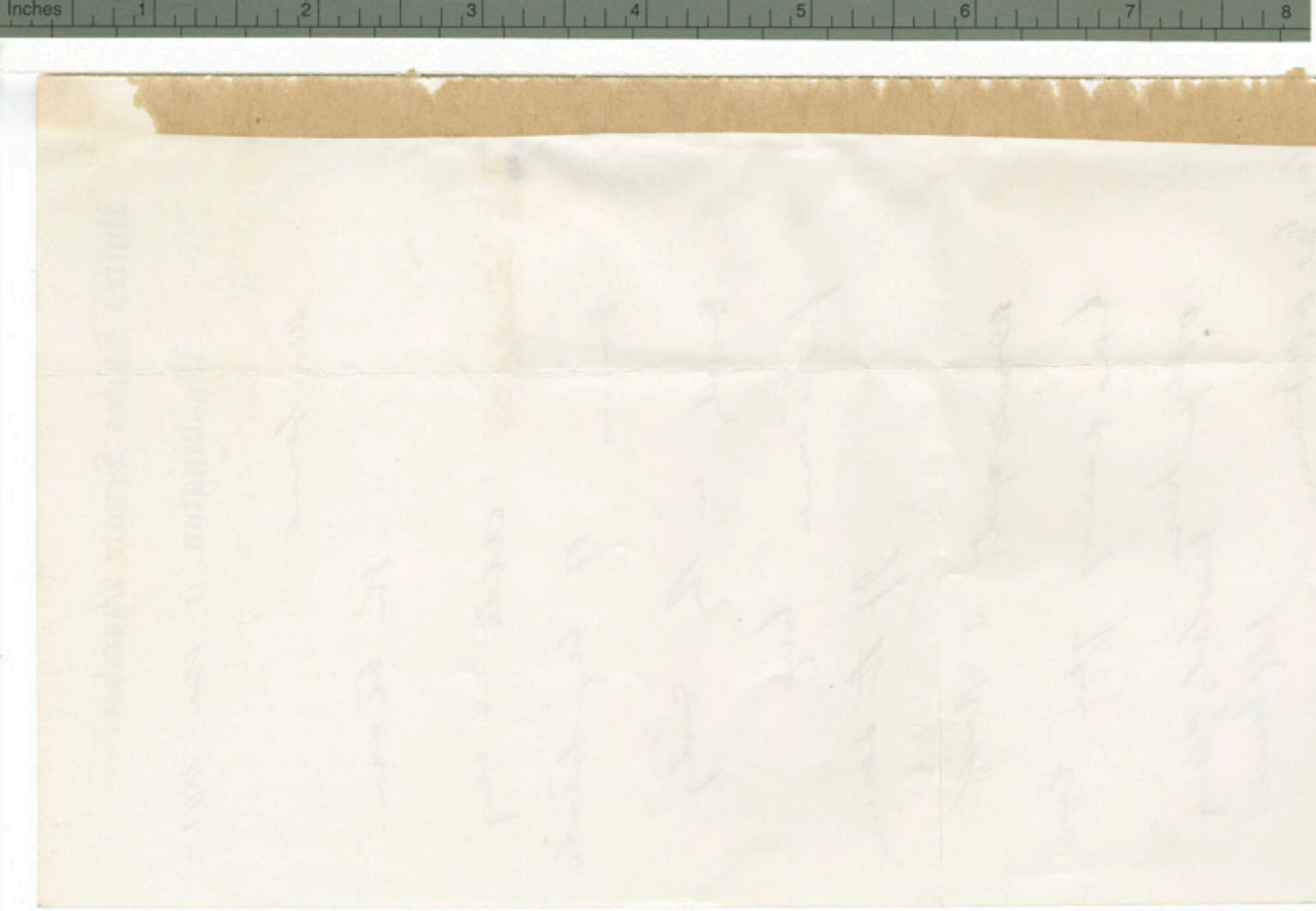
adjourns soon, I shall

hope to see you

Very respectly yours

J. McDonald

Maj Gen O. O. Howard



Headquarters, District of Texas,

Galveston, Texas, April 15th 1867.

Major Genl O. O. Howard:

Dear General:

I have been delayed in answering your letter in reference to Mr Wheelock by the pressure of work — You will see by my roster of officers that I have placed an Army officer in charge of every department, which I did for the express purpose of getting free from any sectarian influences — I showed Mr Wheelock the publication & he replied that he wrote it before or about the time Genl Kiddoo was relieved and it was not intended for publication — That Gen Kiddoo & Mr Wheelock did not get along harmoniously is no secret — Indeed the Bureau when Genl Kiddoo retired was considerably in a mess, but it is due to the General to say that in a great measure it was not his fault, but owing to events over which he had no control — When I assumed the duties of the Bureau there were twenty nine agents covering about 29.000 square miles. to-day there are (55) fifty five covering nearly all the state — The December reports showed only (300) five hundred children at school & to-day there are

supersede me, for without the military I should be powerless, and your department would suffer from the day the two are separated — I thought that I had sold the San Antonio tannery for $20,000 00/100 but I fear that the bidders will not come up to the mark — Rodgers' advertisement was too loosely drawn up and I shall have to call for other bids —

Yours truly —

Cha S Griffin.

Bottom Gen.

I think over fifty thousand – the returns are not all in –
The Freedmen are at work generally through the state – Even
the Rebs admit they are working well every where, better
even than could be expected – Whilst I have been firm
& decided with all I have tried to be just and showed
free happy to all an inspector at any time – From the
best information I can obtain over three fourths of the
land usually tilled is under cultivation and should they be
a favorable season this year, the crops will be much
larger than last –

Now Mr Wheelock is a useful man to me and as he
has nothing to do but obey orders, I propose to keep him
so long as I cannot do better – Mr Allen agent of the
American Freedmens Aid Commission is an industrious and
energetic man but he lacks ability – Could teach an
excellent school, but when it comes to managing 20,000
scholars – for I trust to have this number – he is not quite
equal to the task – I have given out that I will accept
the aid of all benevolent associations in diffusing knowledge
to the colored people and the more laborers there are
the more work can be accomplished –

I see by to-days paper that Genl Rousseau will probably
be sent to Texas – Should this be the case I will ask that
the same boat that brings him brings someone to

Galveston Texas,
April 15th 67.

Griffin Chas.
Brt. Maj. Genl.

States that Mr. Wheelock is a very good man, and under his orders. and he prepares to keep him.

Writes favorably of the condition of affairs in Texas. Wishes to be relieved if Genl. Rousseau is sent there.

Recd. Apl 23. 67.

Bureau of R. F. & A. L.
Washington
April 15th 1867

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard
Comr. Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Sir:

My attention has just been called to an encumbrance on the property proposed to be sold you by Mr. Jno A. Smith which, unless removed or modified is likely to cause much trouble.

I refer to Mr. Smith's lease of two acres of land for two years from Jan 1, 1867 to Thos. Coyle for purposes of getting sand. As the lease now stands Mr. Coyle is not restricted to any particular two acres, but may follow the sand veins wherever they run so that he restricts himself to two acres in all. Moreover though in the agreement he binds himself to fill up the holes before the expiration of the lease, if he sees fit not to do so your only remedy will be an action against him, which you would not care to be annoyed with & which after all might not avail, if he has no property subject to execution.

Considering the large amount of ~~[illegible]~~ money

Mr. Smith will receive for this property he can well afford to buy Coyle off & in my opinion should be required to do so & thus remove all encumbrance, as a condition precedent to the completion of the sale. My understanding is that you agree to purchase the property free from all encumbrance.

If however Mr. Smith is not sufficiently anxious to make the sale, to do this & you are willing to take the property with such an encumbrance, I would require Mr. Smith to effect a new agreement with Coyle, whereby he would be restricted to certain two acres & further to give bond with sureties to fill up & grade the holes he has made, before the expiration of his lease. I would then require this lease to be assigned to the trustees.

Unless Mr. Smith fulfils one or the other of these conditions I would not take the property, because as Coyle's lease now stands he might give you a great deal of trouble.

I await your orders in the matter.

Very respectfully
Your obt servt.
Wm H. Owen
Solicitor &c.

Washington D.C.
April 15th 1864

Owen W. H.

Makes a statement regarding a lease of two acres of land on the Smith farm to Thos. Coyle for two years. And thinks it may make a little trouble if not attended to at once.

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Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard,

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in introducing to you my friends Mr. & Mrs. Stubbard (J.C.) of Cambridge.

They have spent some months in Jamaica, and are desirous of seeing as much of our new emancipated people as possible within the line of their travel.

May I request you to furnish Mr. Stubbard a line to the Bureau-officers in South Carolina.

Yours very truly,

Boston, Apr. 15. (86). Edw. L. Keith

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Washington City - Apl. 15. 1867

General:

I have the honor to ask, that you will be so kind, as to grant me an interview, at your earliest convenience this morning, - in order that I may lay before you the peculiar situation of myself, and over Two Hundred Freed Men, Women & Children - who are dependant upon me - in Mississippi,

It is a situation, which causes me the greatest anxiety, and sincere distress, —

I would therefore, gladly avail myself of an opportunity to explain it to you fully, in all its circumstances and bearings,

This being done, - I should feel confident, General, that you would cheerfully extend that assistance in the special case I present, - without which, incalculable injury and suffering to individuals and families must ensue - and without which, increased expense must be incurred by the Government,

I have the honor, to be,

Most Respectfully

Your Obt. Serv

Edward P. Jones.

Maj Genl. O. O. Howard

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Washington, D.C. Apl. 15, 1867

General:

Pardon me for again troubling you with my affairs. I was suffering from pain in my head this morning, and from the effects of Morphine to such an extent that I could not do myself justice, and did not fully disclose to you the extremity of the position in which I am placed.

If I can keep my hands as laborers, together this year, I can make a fine crop, and will be hereafter a successful, and wealthy planter. But if I should be compelled to discharge my present employées (nine-tenths of whom are my old slaves, and have manifested the greatest personal confidence in, and attachment to, me) I must lose all my present prestige, and cannot expect ever again to organize, for a successful engagement with other freed-men. Under such circumstances, the importance that I should command the means, to sustain my planting operations the present year, becomes excessive and paramount.

I know, General, your kindness of heart, and have had ample proof of your generous sympathy with those who struggle under misfortune, and difficulty. Allow me then, to presume

upon my conceptions of your character, and to implore you to come to my relief personally, or officially, if you possibly can. I am perfectly willing to pay for the amount necessary to my operations this year, a bonus of Five Thousand Dollars — to be paid out of my first cotton sent to market, — or I will pay 25 per cent, upon the amount I need, not to exceed $20.000. To make all this secure, I will give a prior lien upon my crop of Cotton, under the act of the Mississippi Legislature of which I left a copy, some hour or two ago.

I will besides, deposit collateral worth over $40.000. to make good my engagements.

The difficulty with me is not to give the security — but to find the party who has the money within his control, for the next 8 or 10. months. I am not solely selfish, in my anxiety to keep my laborers together this year. I have been very indulgent to them — have allowed them to gather about their houses, poultry and other stock, — and if they be compelled to leave their old homes, the moral, pecuniary and physical, injury to them, and their families will be perfectly irreparable.

As they never owned him to any other person, and as I was before the late, ever to be lamented, Civil War, regarded, as one of the safest, and perhaps the wealthiest man in my County, I only quote their own language, to you, when I say that, they "will never again have any faith in any other white man", should their old reliance and best friend, now fail them,

It would seem to me, General, that you might allow me to use enough of the funds on deposit or subject to your draft, out of the Appropriations by Congress, for your Bureau to sustain my operations for the next 8 or 10 months, This I would return with large interest, before the whole will be needed - and thus save the Gov't. expense, and enlarge the means at your command

I am willing to give the whole of my Cotton planting profits, this year, in order to keep together my old people, They are in families and their dispersion, and transfer to the Govern't, for support, at this season of the year, would lead to their utter moral and industrial ruin, From such demoralization, and the griefs of such a separation, I know them well enough, to feel sure they would never recover,

General, I now, in conclusion, implore you

to do whatever you can, to prevent these lamentable consequences. If you cannot temporarily aid me in your official control of funds. I beseech you to use your individual, and personal influence with some Capitalist of your acquaintance, to induce him, to make me a loan upon my giving him ample security.

I am at the National Hotel, in this City - and beg that if another interview, will be of any use, that you will advise me when and where I may attend you. Be pleased if possible to let me hear from you this evening.

Humbly begging you, General, to make due allowances for my unhappy position and to ~~forgive~~ me for this pertinacity - I express the hope that you will recognise my case, as one peculiar in so many of its circumstances, that it cannot be made a precedent for others, so as to embarrass you hereafter, should similar applications ever be made - of which there is probably no likilihood.

Trusting you will reconsider my petition and conclude to extend the proposed for assistance.

I have the honor, General, to be with greatest respect,

Your Vry obt. Servt

Edwd. P. Jones.

P.S.

It is a part of my agreement with my Freedmen that I am to keep up a school, for the education of their children - and to support in part a Minister of the Gospel, who is regularly to preach to them, in this neighborhood. E.P.J.

Next year I will divide, and lease them, my Lands -

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Westboro: April 15th 1867.

Genl O. O. Howard.

Dear Sir.

Our Lyceum Association direct me to write to you, extending an invitation to address us, some evening during the next lecture season.

We are endeavouring to make our engagements, thus early, even if we cannot obtain specie dates.

Our town lies on the B & W. RR. twelve miles from Worcester, and we can give you an audience of from six to eight hundred to speak to.

If accepting, please name me, your terms, and if possible, the month, we might expect you.

Yours very truly

William R. Warner,
Westboro'
Mass.

Westborough, Mass
April 16 '67

Warner Wm. R.

Desires Genl. Howard to address the people of above place some time during the next lecture season. Wishes Genl. Howard to inform him when he can come, and what his terms are.

Cant come

Recd. Apl. 19. '67.