Hudson River Institute
Rev. Alonzo Flack A.M. Principal
Claverack Columbia County
New York, June 15, 1867

My dear Gen. O. P. Howard
Sir,

We are trying to get a collection of Autographs for our Library. You would confer a great honor by sending yours in the enclosed envelope.

Most respectfully yours,
S. F. First Librarian
J. A. Clark, Sec.
Greensboro N.C. June 15, 1867

General:

Notwithstanding the fact that my letter to Agent Commissioner was presented to Major Bolivar, in charge of the Bureau at his post, he did not in accordance with his express promise call upon me to accompany him on his visit to the country. I have therefore spent two days inspecting the condition of freedmen in this town and its vicinity—visiting their school, settlements, etc.

In order to better ascertain their condition and wants, at a late hour yes. 
Yesterday I called for a meeting of the colored people to be held on the evening at their large school building, one mile from this town. At 9 o'clock nearly two hundred residents had assembled and the meeting was conducted with interest until 12. The colored men organizing themselves, after singing and prayer, the usual concomitants of free men's meetings, I listened to the statements of their representative men, and then addressed the meeting myself, explaining the Bureau organization and its objects, and answering their various questions. In such intercourse with
with the Freedmen here I have gained certain facts, and opinions which appear to touch the very heart of the question. Their present and future condition in the South. This however may not be novel to the Bureau.

Very little abandoned land is now held in this State by the Government for the benefit of the Freedmen. In consequence, the only means of these people for support or the accumulation of property is their wages. The price of labor in North Carolina, and as far as I can ascertain throughout the South, hardly suffices. The Freedmen for the former and does not allow them even to hope
for the latter. Almost the highest sum paid the laborers here is $150.

The rent - a farm rent sufficient to supply him with the necessities of life. Two hundred colored men in this vicinity have contracted for small homes. Only twenty out of this number have been able to pay any considerable part of the amount for which they have contracted, and with present wages and prospects they do not seem to be able to do better for the future.

The freedmen understand thoroughly this condition of things and are opposed by it. They would become
utterly discouraged were it not
that their hopeful spirit under any
circumstances leads them to expect
possible or impossible relief.
In this vicinity, where the colored
people come to an extraordinary degree
ambitions and intelligence, they hold
frequent meetings and discuss fully
their condition. They conceive, and
nightly I think, that this condition
of poverty results poverty must
remain the same for a long time
in the future unless they can pro-
cure land. But with wage scarcely
at living rates it is impossible
to save money. And this is not
the worst aspect of the question. Even
could the freedmen save money from
come wages they cannot—profitably
buy land. I speak from a very
the general statement of facts. The land
holders of North Carolina will sell
land to the negro only at rates
prices and on conditions that will
miss him. The figures are variously
stated but the general truth appears
that for land appraised at from
$2 to $10 per acre, the freedman
is demanded from $20 to $30.
— the white landlord sells
per acre. They themselves do now
concealed their intentions. We may express it—these gentles who for two centuries have been masters of the soil of the South are determined that having been foiled in the pursuit of keeping the black men a slave the shall now be a Turk. Buying his own food and clothing working at the lowest possible rates which can support life or procure his labor it is asserted by many that the freedman can be made more profitable to the landed interests than the slave. These things are told by the freedman themselves. They feel and understand.
The burden of the whole (unfair) system which endeavored to crush them. What is the relief? May their delusive gibe a solution of the question.

It is the same, General, which you have practically and successfully given the same question in the District of Columbia. The acres of North Carolinians are lying fallow on waste by thousands. Let them say the President was purchased by the Government by associations or by individuals and be held for sale to the colonists on such terms as will allow them to buy and live. The freed-
men ask, and read no more.

More than a year ago they abandoned the expectation of confiscation and support by the Government. They now ask only the opportunity to support themselves - land upon which to base their labor. These men are accustomed to work. Two years of practical freedom has given them confidence in their own ability to succeed - almost against the organized tyranny which now surrounds them. Leaders can be purchased here and elsewhere for $2-$4-

$8$8-81/2, an acre. Some of colored
new, practical and industries, assume new. They within a period less than eight years. They could under favorable contract, buy for corn, to secure farms and homes, price double the original purchase. In this sort of light—such a scheme appears not less one of profitable business speculation than of humanity. Nothing could so surely tend toward a practical solution of the future condition of the freedmen in the South. Reconstruction will certainly not be carried on so swiftly by bayonets and conventions. There
although necessary are unconstitutional and which seek to protect a class of people who only need the most favorable opportunity to protect themselves. To my own mind this scheme as a general policy to be extended throughout the whole South appeared fraught with the hope of the same success it which he has obtained in the District of Columbia. Considered the scheme of with laws enacted to protect him and officers appointed to execute any plan which can be either the black man practical or business, indemnity in the South is incomparably
cheaper. So long as he is not independent, he will be oppressed, and outside of protection, give him this iniately chance and no man in the world by ambition by industry by enthusiasm and capacity is capable as The Africans of self elevation. Here in The heart of The South, emerging from bondage and a condition of ignorance hardly above that of barbarism, struggling against the oppression of a hostile race, the black man in after two years of freedom exhibits such capacities for enlightened citizenship as would
be amazing at the end of a half century. The hatred which therefrom
followed and the touch of their future is tender and touching almost
to sublimity. There is something so earnest, so honest and so true
in the negro's character that the future
will boast nothing nobler.
When the barbaric chivalry of five
centuries ago dies out of the South
it will be replaced by the chivalry of modern times in this
same region character.

The Freedmen
of this part of North Carolina
are earnestly discussing the ques-
tion, how they shall be able to
obtain land and better their condi-
tion. Their representation may have
been to report to you their con-
dition and necessities. They would
before this have corresponded with
you themselves had they found
any efficient means of communi-
cation through the Bureau office
of this place. But as unworthy
and insufficient have been the
Bureau officers of this district
including eight counties and 80
much the interests of the freedmen have been ignored that they profess their belief that the Government and the North had forgotten them. They therefore hailed my coming among them almost with enthusiasm as it I have endeavored to give them renewed assurance of your friendly interest. Major Bolens now succeeds him Mr. Blandworth the former negative agent, and through him this assurance can doubtless be made good. The other assistants of the district are relieved today.
Before closing this letter, which I fear is too much prolonged, I am bound to report another matter of vital importance to the interests of the freedmen here.

It appears that the Bureau no longer makes their contracts for labor and wages. In consequence, the greatest number are working either without contracts or erect with such as have been formed by their employers to throw advantage in their own favor.

The complaint is universal among the colored laborers.
They are discharged at the whim or convenience of the employers, that they are refused their wages; that the Buman influence no longer descends upon them as formerly; that although they are allowed to testify in the court, and to sit upon juries and although justice might not be refused them on trial, the cost of seeing lawyers generally over-balances their small but just claims. In such a state of things, they cannot attempt to secure themselves for past services, and so become engaged with new employ.
The same risk of similar injustice, I do not know that the statement of the case has been before presented to the Bureau. Injustice is done not because the civil courts will refuse justice but because the payment cannot pay for justice. This evil is a radical one and as it seems universal here, I have no doubt of its prevalence elsewhere. I feel that it is my duty to prescribe it as forcibly as possible to the consideration of the Bureau.
Generally the relation exists between the whites and blacks in this portion of the State. It is impossible that is, there is not but few cases of violent outrage from either side. The freedmen shudder to many evils which they cannot remedy. The fault lies in the system and not in the acts with which they are treated. Everywhere they are allowed the perfect liberty of schools, assemblies, free speech and everything that pertains to the outward forms of freedom. Disloyal sentiment is abundant.
there doubting, but it is not for
monstrous. A loyal man is not inconvincible by the presence
of it as in Richmond. He is trait-
ernestly and with respect. The
garrison here under Major Worth
is orderly and keeps order. The
citizens do not appear badly disposed
for toward it. Some of civil
cases are brought daily to the
officers for consideration. The
ignorance of their people is immense.
The more I study the, and
in the South, the more I am
amazed that such stupidity
and ignorance sufficiently as exists in I- should have even contemplated the overthrow of the Government in the hands of the South. Judge Riddles' Speech here a month ago is has had a much wholesome effect among all classes, and is still the subject of much comment.

The freedman's school near here at Warrenville, under the auspices of a benevolent society, is in a much flourishing condition, having upon its rolls nearly five hundred scholars. It is the pride of the freedmen.
Illustrating to them so clearly, as if done their capacities for improvement, from the infants just from the cradle to the gray-haired men and women these people of the villages are learning to read and write. I found it so visitying them tenants one by one. Much of this enthusiasm is due to the chance twice of these heroic women here from the north - the teachers of the school - Misses Bramman, Dow, and Swinburne.

Tonight I shall call another meeting of the Freemasons.
Something that this report has not been distressingly long. I am
general, very respectfully
your obedient,
Wm. F. Armstrong

Paul D. Howard
Washington D.C.
Brief

dont enter

C.R.

Jun 18 1867

Washington
Belair Jan 5th 1863

Dear Sir,

Your note of 11th inst.

I am not & O had to comply

with what you think of the last

requirement of the O.D.T.

Let them may be a mis-

understanding, as a reason for

my discharge, I continue

to insist that it was for a

reason of desire — you can return

it to the discharge as of

28th of. Whitch

I sent you last winter

and as they are again

at the dept

I shall indeed feel

much relieved that
This matter is closed up.

Beg not forget to retain for Lime Hill the money when you need for your trouble.

It is now 4 years since the money became due. And in the early sum for services that I have had any difficulty in paying. For the past 8 months I have felt the need of the money. Very much.

Mr. Northcote & Mrs. Two Little boys are quite well.

Hope your family are well.

Yours Sincerely

G.W. Northcote

O. O. Howard
Belvoir
June 15th, 1865

Woodman E.M.

A. C. G. Genl.

Howard sent a note of 11th inst.,
States that he concludes to enclose his discharge
in order that it may be seen if desired, and
asks to have it returned together with the
discharge as Colonel 28th Inf. N.V. which he
sent some time ago.
He also encloses other papers.
New York, June 15, 1867

Gentlemen,

Washington

My dear Sir,

Enclosed is the U.S. Treasury Check for the sum of $2,000 25c, drawn on the U.S. Treasury, which please acknowledge in the separate receipt.

Writing you under the firm name of Phelps, Dodge & Co.

W. C. Dodge
Columbus, Ohio, June 16th, 1867

Maj. Genl. G.O. Howard

My dear friend,

I received your kind favor of the 11th is at hand, for which please accept my thanks. Fully appreciating the kindness and the way you have treated me as I know you would like to do. I am (allow me to say) no longer abeliever in Social, political, or military, impossibilities. That the quotas of Maine and Ohio are now more than full, does conclusively show the quota lines were not very rigidly drawn, like the Americans. Although surrounded with difficult pressure always held one more.

The St. Louis promised one or an appointment in the Army. Allaying it for a short time hoping to give one something better now a 2nd lieutenant.
His reputation at home here in Ohio is high. While the Senate credits promises, I have made always refer to the letter. According by, I am trusting confidence expecting any correspondence. If you will see him this season and promise him of the facts, you will please one under renewed obligation, and consider doubly sure any appointment.

I am general
With great respect,
Your friend,
R.E. Whitman
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dickenson