42

Washington Arsenal,

Washington, D. C. March 12th 1868.

Dear General:

I duly received yesterday p. m., your note, and in reply have to state that the greater part of the laborers white and colored are now engaged cleaning bricks precisely on the same footing at $1.00 per thousand. The colored men from your Bureau were too late to commence work on yesterday. I recommenced with about thirty two white men - but as they were new at the business of cleaning brick I hardly consider the result of the days work a criterion. One man cleaned during working hours fifteen hundred = to $1.50. Another from 1/4 to 10½ A. M. until sunset 1200 - The average

cleared about one thousand
a little habit combined with
proper industry will I think
greatly increase the average
when working by the day and
at $1.50 per day - some men
did not average six hundred
a day - and the cost to the tyrants
was little less than $3 - per
thousand! I am convinced that
I have taken the only proper course
and if men are really disposed
to work their reward will
entirely depend upon their
own industry. I can get any
number of men at the price
offered and am besieged
by applicants. The demolition
of the buildings is accomplished
pretty much, as far as the
obstruction of the bricks thrown
down will admit of.

To cause my disposition to employ the colored men, I called at your office on Friday to engage hands - and subsequently called on your brother and requested him to employ the men. My desire is to give the work as equitably as I can to white and colored.

The colored men who left me and who have as I understand engagement to make some difficulty - were I am inclined to believe led astray by the bad counsel of some of the party. I commenced the work earlier than my judgment sanctioned, on account of the inclement weather, with no other view than to afford employment to the suffering poor who were dispersed

to mark - my humanity led me into the error of giving at first too much rations - and which I discovered I could not carry out.

I can only hope that these people may get better rations elsewhere - but which I am much doubt.

I am General
very truly yr
Chas D Ramsay
Brig Genl

Major Genl. O. O. Howard
&c &c &c
Freedmens Bureau

BUREAU R.F.&A.L.
RECD
MAR 10
1865
WASHINGTON.

43

Washington D C
March 12th 1868

Major Gen. O O Howard

Sir

The building now on the first congregational church of Washington D C expires the 18th inst.

Shall I renew it, if so for what time

Yours &c
R. H. Marsh
agent —

Washington Ills.
March 12th 1868

Marsh, R. H.

Inquiring [illegible]
Com.

States that the builders risk on the 1st Cong. Church expires on the 18th inst.
Shall it be renewed and for what time?

RECEIVED
MAR
13
1868
PRIVATE.

HEAD QUARTERS, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER,

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,

DISTRICT OF MARYLAND AND DELAWARE.

44

Baltimore, March 13 1868

Genl

I have the honor to enclose letter of Maj Von Schwach with the request that the same may be returned to me as I prize it very highly, coming from so good a friend and fine a gentleman, May I also request that the other letters from Genl Dodge and H. Price, U.S.A. be returned to me, I would like to show them to my son in after years. Hoping that I have established a character for honesty, I would most earnestly ask that my pay may be allowed me, as I am greatly in need of it.

Very respectfully
Your obt Servant Servant
C C Aldrett
Clerk

Genl O. O. Howard
Commdr

Bdgrs Asst Commr
Baltimore Md
Mch 13th 1868

Aldreth C. W.
Clerk

Encloses letter from Maj Von Schirach vouching for the character of Aldreth while Chief clerk of the claim Division.

Points that he has established a character of honesty, and earnestly asks that his pay be allowed him

Requests the return of the enclosed letter, also those of Genl Dodge and A. Price M.C.'s, etc,

find the letters he wants & return & inform him that a. c. cannot [illegible] what [illegible] give data

RECEIVED
MAR
14
1868
PRIVATE

Brunswick have near view — Affy. yrs. Geo. Runcorn

the nakedness of the land"
& seeing his dear friends=
Keelen expects to be sick
very soon. but seems cheer-
ful & makes the best of every-
thing - this whole town rings
with scandal about them
which I believe formented only
in impudence on her part
and a disgusting want of pro-
priety on his. If Sarah goes
away the last of May. Mother
can have the pleasant rooms
in the North part of her house
if we have the other part = She
can furnish them. have her
own table, (which she wishes when
with any of her children) and
receive her friends or visit them
as she thinks best. It will give
her a pleasant retreat & place of
deposit in Maine - Sarah is still
sort of coquetting with the idea
of marriage - if not with her lover
but acts as if she would marry=

If you can get time please write a note to Ellen at Bath
as the girls
Dear Sister
for a fortnight
Sorrow & Jennie.
Tell
Sadie
Sarah
Charlie
Rose
Mother
Sweet
Hattie
Bam
Willie
Rose
Lucy
Lily
Sweet
Hattie
Willie
Rose
Mother
Sweet
Hattie
Willie
Rose
Mother
Sweet
Hattie
Willie
Rose
Mother

change her plans pretty often
and now thinks her health
too poor to visit Hallowell
and Monticello. I think
she would come to us and
rest if we were keeping house
but does not like the idea
of boarding. ("hates to hire her
board") & will only stay a few
days here now.

After I had accepted an
invitation to preach in Mass.
we (Ella & I) decided to go to
Washington. Starting from Boston
the 30th inst. if it would
be convenient for you to
have us at that time. Ella
wants to go very much, but
not without me, and I can
take part of my vacation then
if necessary & be there for the
"Council" &c. So I decided
to go with her: and invited
Mother to accompany us.

It seemed to strike her
favorably and she began
to plan to go. She thinks any
care on the journey & thinks
she may be relieved by going
with us. Now our fears
are (Ella's & mine) that
you will be so overrun
with all of us that you
will wish us in the bottom
of the Sea. So I have written
to say if for any reason we
had better postpone again
our visit. We will do
so cheerfully. I hope Jamie
arrived safely. He would
have had a chance of getting
sick and of being a little in
Mother's way during this somewhat
interrogatory at Leeds.

J. W. Euton has been there
for two or three days "spying
out the land" & seems to
be very much pleased with
the prospect. I hope we
may see him here next week.
I hope some one has written
you. Ella & I send our
love to Uncle Orin, Williams, Andrews, Sister in the Lord
& Mrs Jones, Uncle & Aunt Hobbs & wife & Mr & Mrs Jones

45

Treasury Department,

Fourth Auditor's Office,

March 13th 1868.

General,

A letter from the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Howard University of March 12th 1868 states that Genl Whittlesey informed the holders of lots in Block No. 4 that the alley had been taken away from said block before the Bonds were issued and the holders were at liberty to give up the lots if they should choose to do so.

Now in my case as well as in six others who hold lots in that block I state that no such information was ever given to any of us, and we are willing to take oath to the same as well as to the letter forwarded to the Committee bearing date January 4th 1868. Genl Whittlesey may have intended to have done what was right, but he has most certainly fell short of his duty as well as insinuating that our statements in this matter are false. Now we desire to know what evidence is necessary to have simple justice done. This Block is the only one that the alley has been taken out in the re-survey; while in other blocks alleys have been made, and while this needs an alley full as much as any in the whole plot, and was represented as having a 15 foot alley in the plot from which we purchased of Mr Hall. Your own house is in the same block and if not too much trouble I wish you would personally investigate this matter. Awaiting a reply before taking further action,

I remain Very respectfully Yours

S. J. Gass

General O. O. Howard.

Bureau R. F. and A. L.

Treasury Department
Fourth Auditor's Office
March 13th 1868

Gass S. J.

States that General Whittlesey claims to have informed the holders of lots in Block 4 (Howard University), that the alley had been taken away before the bonds were issued

He and six others holding lots in said block will take oath that they never rec'd any such information

Respectfully requests that the Genl investigate the matter etc, etc, etc,

RECEIVED
MAR
14
1868
PRIVATE

46

Dear General —
Mr. Stevens' compliments to you, and says he is a good deal better this morning.

Yours truly
T. W. Tomey

Genl. O. O. Howard

March 14
[1868]

Merchants' Boston and New Orleans Steamship Co.

J. HENRY SEARS,

92 State Street,

123

Boston, May 16 1868

Genl O. O. Howard
Washington, Dear Sir,

I inclose draft on New York for $100 — being amt appropriated from penny contributions the year past in Shawmut Sabbath School (Rev. Mr. Webb) to assist in your Church enterprise. It should have been forwarded sooner, but the accounts of last year have but just been turned over to me by the previous Treasurer. Please return inclosed receipt. I am

Yours Truly
T. S. Atwood

Address No. 92 State St.

Mch 18th 1868

Atwood E. S.

Encloses draft for $100. amount appropriated from penny contributions, during the past year, in Shaumut S. School. to asst Cong. Church in Washington, etc,

Entered

RECEIVED. MAR 19 1868 PRIVATE.

Washington March 16th 66

47

My dear General

Allow me to solicit your attention and usual phylanthropy to the so called Anti Inebriant of which I spoke to you some time ago.

I have tried it with invariable good success. With a little exersion on the part of the unfortunate drinker to cast off that horrible vice, the remedy will help him much in obtaining the desired object. Of course a certain determination to take the remedy instead of Liquor is absolutely required.

The Agent will present you with a few bottles of the Extract which you may give a fair trial

(P.S. Confidential)

Respectfully
Ciro S. Verdi

48

Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, STATE OF GEORGIA.

Atlanta, Georgia, March 16th 1868.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard.
Commissioner Bureau R. F. & A. L.
Washington, D.C.

Dear General,—

Rev. R. M. Nott, of this place formerly of New York has made application to the Secretary of War for appointment as Chaplain of this post. I think him an excellent man, and if a word from you would aid in securing his appointment I would be much pleased if you will speak it.

Very respectfully & truly,
E. A. Ware
Supt. Ed.—

Atlanta Georgia
March 16th 1868

Ware E. A.
Supt, etc.

States that Rev R. M. Nott has applied to the Secty of War for appointment as Chaplain of that Post.

Thinks Mr. Nott an excellent man, and would like to have the Commissioner speak a word in his (Nott's) favor

RECEIVED
MAR 19 1868
PRIVATE.

Omaha Nebraska
Mch 16th 1868

Smith, N. B.

Is informed that Allen P. Huggins, Bureau Agt. at Jackson Miss. is likely to get into trouble for having brought charges against certain officers for drunkenness

The writer and Huggins served through the war together.

Testifies that Huggins is an honest, truthful, and conscientious christian man, therefore hopes that the Commr. will carefully investigate any matter that may come up.

RECEIVED MAR 21 1868 PRIVATE.

49

Omaha Nebraska
March 16. 1868

Maj. Gen O. O. Howard
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:-

I am informed that my friend Allen P. Huggins, one of the Bureau Agts. stationed at Jackson, Miss., is likely to get into some trouble owing to his having brought charges against certain officers for

drunkeness. Now I do not know who Mr. H. has accused but am confident that he would make no charges against persons unless satisfied of their guilt.

Knowing that any man who takes a bold stand against the vices and corruptions of men either in or out of the Army meets with strong opposition I fear that his enemies may prove too strong for him to contend against single handed.

I have known Mr. Heggie for a number of years - was in the same regiment with him and was intimate with him until he went into the employ of the Freedmans Bureau and I am satisfied that he is an honest, truthful & conscientious Christian young man.

His boldness in exposing wrongs and corruption is apt to lead him into trouble.

I only ask, General, that you will carefully examine into any matters in which he may possibly become involved being convinced that he will ever be able to vindicate his course of action.

Trusting that you will pardon me, a stranger to you, in addressing you, I am

With much respect

W. B. Smith

50

La Crosse, Wis March 17th 1868

Major Gen. O. O. Howard
Washington D C

Dear Sir

Allow a former fellow soldier to trespass upon your valuable time for a few moments

A brother Officer Brevet Brig Gen Milton Montgomery late Col of the 25th Wis Vols and as I believe a brave and meritorious Officer who lost his right arm at the battle of Decatur Ga. on the 22d day of July 1864 and was taken prisoner in consequence thereof has been very recently assailed by some unscrupulous personal enemies who publicly accuse him of Cowardice I have no earthly doubt of the falsity of the statement but still would feel highly gratified with an endorsement from his Army Commander If you can consistently state to me the facts as to his character as an Officer while under your command you

will confer a favor upon a patriotic brave man one who suffered at Macon and Charleston with me in rebell prisons and vindicate the character of the brave men who had the honor to belong to that Regiment assailed through their Colonel

I have the honor to be

respectfully Your obt Serv-

John A Kellogg

Brevt Brig Gen Late Col 6th Wis Vol Vols

Lt. Cross. Wis.

March 17th 1868

Kellogg, John A.
Bvt. Brig Gen late Col 6th Wis Vet Vols.

States that Bvt. Brig. Gen. Milton Montgomery late Col. 25th Wis. Vols., who lost his right arm at the Battle of Decatur Ga. 22d of July 1864, has very recently been publicly accused of cowardice.

Requests the Commission's testimony as to Gen Montgomery's character, while under the Commissioner's command. etc etc.

RECEIVED MAR 21 1868 PRIVATE

52

4 Market Space
(Board of Trade Rooms)
Washington Mch 17/68

General

Pardon me if I bother you too much?

I notice to-day that the water in the ponds on Squares 1011–12, and 1009 is green, stagnant odorous. As hitherto, or more so, it will soon again sicken the neighborhood:—especially your new settlement. Now is the best time to abate such nuisance. After a years hard work I got thro the Councils, the Act of May 31. 1867 authorizing the Mayor to drain these ponds &c. But it appears to be a matter of mixed jurisdiction: for Mass, Tenn, and N C avenues, as also the road-way on north edge of Lincoln Square belongs to the U S Govt; and because it was the act of filling in said Square last year which cored the land-vein thro which the large pond had thitherto partly drained itself, and which causes the water to back up over

north B street.

The desiderata now therefore are to bring about joint action of Gen Michler and the Mayor; and to get them to act immediately. If however either party should work in advance of the other, it is, I think, best that Gen Michler should lead the way: but am not sure.

I leave to day seen the Mayor and will at his request call on to consult with Gen Michler. "A long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether" may prove successful. May I therefore hope that you too will lend a hand?

Some of your $15000, and some of the Generals $8000 for Lincoln Square might be thus advantageously invested.

Then, too, General, cannot you join me in pressing an extension of Lincoln Square to A street prolonged?

Respectfully Yours

A. C. Wales

Gen O. O. Howard
Bureau of Refugees &c