Tuscumbia, Ala.
May 23, 1868.

Dear Gen. O. O. Howard, W.D.C.

Washington, D.C.

General.

You will please pardon me for addressing you, but as I contemplate publishing a book entitled "Three Years in the Freedmen's Bureau," I deem it proper to ask whether you would have any objections on that score. The work will contain nothing but facts showing the enormous and delicate duties that an officer of that much beloved and lavish institution had to perform, and the many
Substantial benefits resulting from not only to the late slaves, but to a very large proportion of the white population of the Southern States, also fully showing up, not only the difficulties, but the dangers, attending Officers in the faithful discharge of their manifold duties, who endeavor to carry out the law of Congress both in spirit and in letter, as well as your instructions.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

Henry Sweeney.

Sdnt. 15th U.S. Infantry.
Cleveland May 23, 1868

Dear O.O. Howard
Washington, D.C.

Sir,

The Cleveland Library Association very earnestly desires to secure a lecture from you sometime during the coming lecture season—Fall or Winter. I trust that if you are coming that at all you will favor us with a lecture. It can give much latitude as to time so as to accommodate you.

Please state, as early as may be possible, your terms, time to be in your reply.

I have the honor to be Very Truly,

J. H. Herrick
Cor Lect., C.S.A.

Drawer 393
Cleveland, Ohio
OFFICE OF THE
Soldiers' and Sailors' Publishing Company,
150 Fulton Street, New York, May 23, 1868

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

General,

We have the honor to send you herewith copies of our little magazine.

You will see its object. It is meeting with very encouraging success, and is the means of assisting very many worthy disabled soldiers, and the families of those who died for their country. Knowing the great interest you have in your old soldiers who like yourself are living testimony to their devotion to country, and feeling satisfied you would gladly do anything to aid them, we most respectfully request, if you approve of our work — its object — you give us your endorsement.

Very truly yours,
Museum House
Brooklyn May 23, 68

My Dear General,

Since the news of the Chicago nomination of the good people of Brooklyn has been strong I desire to see and speak Mr. Colfax. I think the action should be justified and am sure Mr. Colfax would be satisfied with his position. I would suggest that in no way can it be done without more delicacy and propriety than by his delivering a speech.
Address before the Plymouth Temperance Society, called in Plymout Church on the Academy of Music. In either place the house will be full. In this way come a greeting to the S. P. Lyceum and Plymouth Church and to its interest.

Mr. Beecher joins heartily in this suggestion and request and shall Mr. Colfax constant friends will have the benefit of Meeting him. Our good cause of Temperance will be strengthened and good will be done in the great cause.
The Republic,

Of course we cannot place this time to his convenience and it's hardly necessary for me to add that the many matters will be satisfactory.

It just occurred to me that with such a grand affair as this can be by producers management she made me can get a benefit out of it for John Church & in which case of course John must come with him

Now my second friend will join & take this matter over with Mr. Colfax and drop me a line stating the result.

With kind regards
To Mrs. Howard and
John Children

I am
your friend

Charle Dunham
Post-Plymouth
Supper Circuit

My Geo. O. O. Howard
Washington D.C.

Sgt. Maj. O. O. Howard.

I have the honor to offer to you my farm for sale. Said farm is lying across the Eastern branch, main entrance at the foot of Goodhope Hill. It contains 631/2 acres, one half of which is garden land, surpassed by none; the balance contains a large number of valuable building sites, from which a view can be had over the whole city of Washington & surrounding.
Should you desire a beautiful place, either on speculation or otherwise, I know this place is suitable for either.

My desire to go south is the only reason for selling, as I have made considerable improvements such as vineyard, peach orchard & a variety of buildings.

I will sell for cash, or otherwise an arrangement could be made to let a mortgage of $6000 remain 18 months, the time for its termination.

The neighborhood is good, if they are opposed to you buying any property in this neighborhood, I am here at any time would be pleased to show you the place.

Very Reas.

Your truly ever,

[Signature]

[Name]
Washington D.C.
May 23rd 1865

Keruckle, Cal. A.

Offers, for sale, his farm lying acres East of Branch, containing 63½ acres.

etc., etc.,

RECEIVED
MAY 26 1865
PRIVATE.
Bureau R. S. & A. S. Funds

Headquarters 9th Brief District

Winchester, May 25th, 1868

Major General O.O. Howard

Commander, Bureau R. S.

Washington, D.C.

General

The report of Capt. Burbaker dated the 8th instant, and furnished to me direct from your office on the 21st instant having been the first information I received of the charge of Maj. Deering and believing that it was not the intention of the Major General Commander to deprive me of the privilege accorded to the greatest criminals, that of being heard in his own defense. I respectfully submit the following statement of the facts, supported by affidavits, which would have been submitted to Capt. Burbaker, had not the investigation been conducted ex parte, at Harpers Ferry. The principal statement, that I placed a skeleton in a coffin to frighten the teachers and freedmen, is not true, in fact, and stated falsely.
will do much be considered if not commendable at least harmless and all the circumstances considered a friendly jest. The coffin was one of a number belonging to the Bureau for the burial of deceased indigent freedpeople, which Mr. Dorriss knew were stored in the building. The skull (there was no skeleton) was placed in the coffin by Dr. Turner, lately a surgeon of the Bureau here. The teachers, my wife and myself boarded together, and our relations were cordial and intimate. At the house numerous practical jokes, on both sides, have been played, and received with the most friendly spirit, and this was thoughtfully done on the spur of the moment, with no intention or idea of seriously alarming Mr. Dorriss. As to "teasing the freedmen" not one of the hour to any knowledge is aware of it. It was at the afternoon session of the school, and before Mr. Dorriss left, that she might not suffer the least embarrassment, she came to all about it by the Torry my clerk.

Read it leave my diary (as it was farthest from my thoughts) to testify those with whom I lived in such friendly relations, whatever she might have suspected, the words now have turned it was a
joke. Since these ladies have been here, I have tried to help them, without fear of contradiction, if I have not used every exertion in my power to aid them in successfully performing their duties. My sympathies are entirely with the colored people in their efforts to obtain the rewards of knowledge, and as an officer of the Bureau, and as a man, I have been cordially with them in this work. I say this to contradict the idea, which must naturally be entertained from past Bahama reports, that I am not friendly to the freedmen and the cause of education. While I admit that under different circumstances, the act with which I have been charged, would be culpable, I respectfully submit that, having from our intimate social relations, that I was merely joking with a friend, that it would be taken in the same spirit, and could not possibly have any serious results to anyone, it was at most an act of harmless amusement. I am also charged with having "given orders to discontinue the use of the schooners for religious purposes." Perhaps I should content myself with the affidavit of the Rev. Mr. James, to whom
denomination which Doezey belonged to a full
reputation of that church, but desiring that the
major secular denominations may comprehend
all the facts, I beg to state that a better sectarian
spirit is manifest in all the colored churches in
this town. The account of the present teachers who
are looked upon as the representatives of the True
Sabbath denomination, and who it was alleged,
were trying to organize a new church, painted them
out as the most dangerous to all the others.
Complaints were made at my office that the
teachers were trying to alienate children from the
church of their father. Prayer meetings were held in
the schoolhouse twice a week. The limestone of the
Methodist church called to remonstrate against the
teachers and ministers of the new church for
having induced many of his Sunday School scholars
to join their own; but yet I did not interfere, believing
that evidence and the best interest of all the
people would be served most by not as an
office, taking sides in a sectarian quarrel.
On the last of January 1870, scholars were
enrolled by the teachers as attending school.
In Brook 113 attended, showing a loss of 37 at a time when the attendance should be largest.

It being evident the school could not continue long at that rate, I took occasion to explain to the teacher, while on a daily visit to my wipes was that if she continued her prayer meetings in the school room in view of the then existing prejudices of a very large majority of the people, she would soon have no scholars, and in order to overcome the opposition, I stated that it would be preferable on prayer meeting days to hold such meetings in the room used for such purpose, and that children only who desired should be invited to attend.

After a full exchange of sentiments on the subject, she said on leaving that she was glad we had a church as she had not seen it in that light before. In the conversation, I spoke with candor and sincerity believing that apart from the daily prayer, no other exciting cause should be introduced into a public school, especially on a subject which has already caused bitter murmurs, was fast dividing the people, and reducing the attendance at school. She school furniture line.
to the property of the colored people, many of whom were opposed to the teachers prayer-meetings. This conversation constitutes the only "order" or suggestion to discontinue the use of the schoolrooms for religious purposes. And I also submit to the Major General Commanding that as one of the schoolrooms was at the exclusive charge of the Free Baptist Association of which Mr. Denying is a member, and in which room he taught at 3 o'clock, that by furnishing another room, not more than ten feet distant, to teachers of the same denomination, whose room was sufficiently large to hold the largest attendance, it would seem to be a just cause of complaint. By this the denominations, against me, to verify my official position in the interest of that denomination only.

In conclusion I respectfully submit the enclosed affidavit and endorsement of Mr. Denying in support of the following proposition:

1. By the endorsement of Mr. Denying on behalf of Mr. Denning "EU" and affidavit of Mr. Denning, neither Bubbach nor Weichselmann are
[Handwritten text not legible]
2d, I, May 8th, 1800, notwithstanding he reported he had performed that duty, but did not have the authority or knowledge of the investigation.
2d, from the affidavit of Mr. Scriver marked B. and that of Rev. Mr. Duggan, marked "D," with the same mark as the major general commissaries will receive that the affair was not violated by Capt. McDowell as stated by Capt. Burbaker, but by the teachers or freedmen.
3d, the affidavit of Rev. Mr. Duggan marked "D" and the materials from Capt. Burbaker report that Capt. McDowell had given orders to discontinue the use of the Schoolroom for religious exercises. Certainly, the utmost tension of a zealot's imagination, could alone construe this communication with the teacher contained in this communication as such an order.
Of the allegations contained in Mr. Duggan's letter, I cannot speak, having no knowledge of them, except that they are reported to me by Capt. Burbaker.
I have the honor to be, General
Your obedient
John A. Donnelly.
Subpect. Court.
Winchester, Va
May 22, 1868

Dear Sir:

Will you please state in writing on the back of this letter, if Captains Pembroke
Bureau Office at Harper's Ferry, has been in Winchester, to your knowledge, since Tuesday
the 7th. Moany instant.

Very Respectfully,

[Signature]

J. D. Doty, Col.
County of Frederick Co.

J. W. Dungee, presiding minister of the F. Baptist Church in Winchester, do hereby certify, that Capt. John McDowell, officer of the Bureau of F. Y. A., has allowed me at all times, to occupy one of the school rooms in which to hold religious services as I desired. The room to which I refer is in the same building occupied by himself. Another room in which is used for a Colored School. My predecessor was also afforded the same facilities and I believe everything consistent with an impartial administration of his duties, was, and still continues to be done by that officer to advance the cause of education and religion. I do not know myself, and never heard any of the free people say that he tried by any means to frighten them, as their minister I should have heard it from them if he has done so.

Sworn and subscribed to before me
this 23 May 1868.

J. W. Dungee

C. W. Gibbons Clerk
County Court Feb. 16th 64
County of Frederick S.S.
I, Horatio Turner, do hereby certify that as First Surgeon U.S.A. I was on duty in the Bu R.V. U.S. at Winchester, and occupied an office on the same floor with Capt. McDonald. A number of coffins for the use of deceased freedmen were stored in the same building and directly over my office. A short time since a skull which was used by me for illustrations, was placed for safe keeping in one of the coffins by myself, and with some articles of clothing belonging to me, were placed behind a door in the office until opportunity presented itself to take them away. The sheetable was not by any means frightful, as coffins are exposed to full view on the floor above, and this one was removed for the purpose stated by me to retain the articles placed therein until taken away.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this 23rd May 1868.

G.W. Miller Jr.
County of Frederick
State of Virginia 88

Addison Dr. Terry being
fully sworn, says that he has read the statement
of loacht. McDowell herewith, in relation to the
exhibition of a skeleton, reported on by loacht. Burbank,
and with the exception of what took place at loacht.
McDowell's boarding house, is familiar with the
whole affair, and considers loacht. McDowell's
statement fair and cautious. That so far as this
affair knows the fact it is true in every particular.
That he has been a lodger of the Bureau at this
place nearly three years, under the administration
of three different officers, and he believes that none
has exceeded loacht. McDowell in their efforts to promote
the general, social and religious welfare of the freedmen.

He further says that Mr's. Dearing, loacht. McDowell
and himself, are the only persons having any
personal knowledge of the affair, and that loacht. Burbank
has not applied either personally or by letter for
any information on the subject.

Dover Dr. Terry

O. C. Gibson Clerk First Gov't 65

Addison F. Terry

Dover Dr. Terry

O. C. Gibson Clerk First Gov't 65
Collector's Office,

CITY HALL,

Washington, D. C., May 25th, 1868

I received a communication informing me that the lots advertised for sale for non-payment of taxes were the property of the First Congregational Church. By reference to the books of this Office I find that Subs. 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 are in the name of O. O. Howard as trustee for said Church which by law are exempt from taxation, but Subs. 16, 17, 18 are in the name of simply of Oliver O. Howard.

Very Respectfully,

John O. Elzang

For City Hall Collector.