Montgomery, September 19, 1868.

Genl. O. O. Howard
Commissioner

Dear Sir,

Mr. Griffin has shown me the enclosed letter, the subject of which has been the theme of many conversations between us. Almost every day I receive letters of inquiry from Northern men asking advice about coming South to live. I cannot invite any man to come and settle down alone, with the knowledge of what would be in store for him if he would not surrender every sentiment of love for the downtrodden and oppressed, every principle of justice—every desire to carry into his political life the precept of the Golden Rule. Few men are so happily surrounded in the home circle as I am, with...
a large family every one of whom strives only
to outdo the others in maintaining “love at home”;
and yet I would not go through the outrages,
wrongs and persecutions I have endured, and
my dear ones have suffered through me, and in
their isolation from all social life outside our
own home, if I were to begin again, for the
ownership of a whole county.

We owe it to our country that these states
conquered in war, shall be saved to the Union
in peace, and the missionary spirit of the North
on people should be directed to bringing this about.

We need organized effort to this end. Whole
Counties can be bought at $3 to $5 per acre,
with improvements, excellent facilities of com-
munication, mineral wealth and abundant
water power. There is no better country on earth
for a good, intelligent Christian people to live.
than this State of Alabama affords. But those who come here from the North should come in numbers and settle in neighborhoods, so as to have their own social life, and educational and religious advantages. They would not fail of pecuniary success, then, and I cannot help believing that the result would be far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine.

When treated as human beings have a right to expect to be treated, the colored people make the best peasantry in the world. Their natural genius is obedience, and they love those in authority over them by instinct. A firm, kind and wise rule brings out their affections in a most extraordinary degree, and they serve others with a personal zeal and goodwill that those who have had to deal only with such domestics as we
have to deal with in the North cannot imagine.

It seems to me that a whole settlement of
Northern people, possessing their own resources
of social, educational and religious life, and
commanding the unskilled labor of these warm
hearted and straightforward colored people, in
the finest climate and the most productive
country within the Union, would be a model
for imitation to the most intolerant and prejudice
of the Southerners, an agent of civilization more
potent than a million of books, and a ble-
ring in every respect to those who might
help to compose it.

Do I write like an enthusiast? There is
no more practical, common sense man among
your acquaintances than I am, and I hope that
I may be able to prove so by the realization of the
anticipation I have here indulged in.

Yours truly,

John C. Reffer
As a specimen of many tracts offered for sale I annex a description of one received today on which the improvements have cost more than the price demanded.

For Sale – Barr’s Plantation – in Monroe County, South Alabama, on the Alabama River, always navigable for steamboats – 120 miles by river and 60 miles by land from Mobile. This place contains 7000 acres – has two miles of river front, with two good and long established steamboat landings and wood yards. It is not subject to overflow. 600 acres are cleared, the remainder well timbered with pine and oak, and all of it well watered.

The soil of one half of the plantation is alluvial, that of the remainder sandy. The whole has a limestone substratum, and limestone can be quarried anywhere on the place. It is thought that proper exploration will develop coal also. This place is not subject to overflow. The alluvial part is well adapted for agriculture, and will produce corn or cotton, and fruits – apples, peaches and grapes without manuring. The sandy land cannot be excelled for pasturing purposes, and is equally good with the other for agriculture when manured.

The timber, both for wood for steamboats, and sawed into lumber for Mobile and foreign markets,
is profitable and inexhaustible. It is also well adapted for stock raising, the range for grazing being excellent all the year round. About half the tract is a virgin pine forest, conveniently located for transportation of lumber or timber to market. This place as before stated, fronts on the Alabama river. Running through it and dividing it equally is a beautiful creek, supplied entirely by springs, furnishing abundant water power for mill or factory purposes, at all seasons. On this stream are two excellent mill or factory sites, with dams already partially constructed, and on one of the sites a saw and gist mill building framed and partially finished. This stream has a fall of 10 to 14 feet every half mile for four miles. A volume of water 14 inches thick and 11 feet broad pours constantly over the dam.

There is also on the place a new and excellent steam saw mill (Circular saw) in full operation, capable of cutting 1000 feet of lumber per hour. Also a tan yard with vats and bark mill all in order—an inexhaustible supply of good oak bark close by on the place.

There is one large family mansion house in good repair, and two other good and comfortable dwelling houses, with two good orchards of apples and peach trees.
also good stables and sheds for stock and 12 or 15 good quarters for laborers or tenants. Also good blacksmith shop and tools, and farming utensils of every kind.

There are also on the place and will be sold with and as a part of it, 50 head of milk cows and young cattle, 100 or more of sheep - 100 or more of swine, 12 or 15 head of good mules well broken to work, and 12 yoke of good work oxen - with wagons, log carts, timber wheels and all appurtenances for carrying on farming and mill business.

The location is healthy. Since its occupancy by its present owners, (three years) with an average population of 100 souls, not a death has occurred.

Villages and Post Offices within convenient distances. Under the new school laws of the State schools will soon be in successful operation.

This place is well adapted for division into small farms for a colony, giving each settler plenty of wood and water - or it is well adapted for a single farm for farming and wood and lumber business.

The price is $5 per acre, including every thing on the place except the household furniture.

The Steamboat Landing for those wishing to examine it is known as "Daniel Louis Landing"
Philadelpahia, Sept. 14, 1865.

Gen. O.O. Howard

My Dear Sir,

I am as you are aware from previous letters anxious to follow up my efforts among the Indians in behalf of temperance. I am here for a few days and have encouragement from the friends of temperance here to continue in the work. A few lines of endorsement from you may help me in securing the aid I need.

A statement of facts also on the subject of interferences among the colored people will be of service to me. My temperance pledge is much prized by the
Freedmen and will have a
great influence with them
in connection with organizing
Temperance Associations.
I should be glad to follow
up any efforts if the means
can be obtained.

Your endorsement of my
labors in behalf of the cause,

Very truly yours,

G. S. Stockwell

P.S. I shall return to Richmond
in a few days and hope to
be able to enter upon through
again at an early day.

Address care J. P. Co. Yard
127, 4th St. Philadelphia, P. S.
I hereby pledge myself to abstain from the use of all intoxicating beverages and from selling or giving away the same.
Sept. 19, 1868

Maj Genl G.O. Howard

Commissary Bu P.T. & A.T.
Washington D.C.

My dear General.

Thinking that the
number of sick when my wife is stopping
might slip your mind, and as it will
afford me great pleasure, I be a source
of great gratification to my wife to see
you, I would state that she is stopping
at the residence of my friend Mr. Wm.
Hoover 209 sixth st.

I have written her address
and she will try to see you (should it be
impossible for you to call on her) either
at your hotel or residence.

I am General,

With great respect,

Your own Servt.

M. A. MacMeltz.
Dear [Name],

It's been a while since we last spoke. I hope this finds you well. I've been thinking a lot about our conversation last week, and I wanted to follow up. Your insights have been invaluable, and I appreciate your willingness to share them.

I've been working on a new project that I think will be really interesting. It's a bit different from what I typically do, but I think it has a lot of potential. I'd love to get your thoughts on it.

Also, I've been reflecting on how much our lives have changed in recent years. It seems like everything is moving so fast, and it's hard to keep up. I'm curious to hear about how you've been managing all these changes.

Let me know if you're available for a call soon. I'd love to catch up and discuss our project further.

Best,

[Your Name]
Montgomery
Ala., Sept. 19, 1868

Maj. Gen. O. C. Howard

Dear Sir,

When you were in Mobile, I suggested that when you return you should issue a circular inviting such gentlemen as you thought would aid in the undertaking to meet in Washington or New York to talk over the condition of the South for the purpose of adopting such measures as would secure a large migration of Northern men to certain Southern states which it might be agreed upon to profit in first.

I wish merely to remind you of the fact and to beg of you not to abandon the idea. The salvation of the South depends upon its receiving a sufficient number of Northern immigrants, and the work should be commenced as soon as possible.

The Hon. John B. Reeder, at whose house you stopped in this city, is also keen of the
Bureau of Industrial resources in this state is deeply interested in the subject and would be a valuable member of such a gathering. Though like the rest of us, he has spent his all in removing him, and cannot now travel on his own expense.

My idea is that New England, for instance, should take hold of Florida and South Carolina, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, for the surplus into Virginia and North Carolina, but especially Va. - while Ohio and the states of the central North should pay their attention to Ohio and Mississippi.

The States I have named (excepting Va.) are those in which a great number of men would exert the most influence for good upon the destinies of the States and the nation.

Helping them whatever you do in the matter will be done quickly and that you will keep me posted (at Mobile) I remain
With sentiments of esteem,

Mrs. Lucy

Albert Cuffin
Washington, D.C.

Oct. 6th, 1863

Friend, Sir,

Sir, having a few leisure moments, I thought I would drop you a few lines as it has been some time since I have had the pleasure of meeting you. I am glad to hear you are doing well. The first day I met you when you also requested me to write to you if I went to Albany. Thank God I have not. If, therefore, I should ever have the chance, I shall endeavor to drop you a line again if allowed to do so.

And that they only allow prisoners to write once in a month if that is the case cannot prompt me to address you as often as I have a mother whom I desire to be a Christian and as g...
believe you to be the same I know, you will not have me neglect her.

My hopes may not have to go to Albany
at all if they knew, I will have a clear conscience. You can send one of
any brother at the city post office.

If I should have D.G. if you
wish to hear from me.

Hoping to see you, must

Close,

I remain

Your affectionate

P. S. remember to thank the
mistakes and in trouble.
Albany 20th April 1868

General

Sir,

As one of the Trustees of Union College and, with the exception of my absence for some few years (to Denmark) one of the Finance Committee of that college, I take the liberty of writing you this letter as your name has been mentioned in connection with the presidency of that Institution. The alleged action of the Board of Trustees in July last was promulgated as no name was before the board from any circumstance. I am induced to think that the use of your name in connection with that college was without your concurrence and I for the Board of Trustees should know it. Any duty or one of the Trustees to the University how you stand affected to the college and that your decision is as would be.
relation to it, premising that the doubt
information in for my own action
and will be directly used without
complicating you and detested
as I am, I think you will see
the propriety of this course, and
I should say, that it is not
monstrous to any opposition to
yourself as a candidate for the
presidency. I push to the case,
for I fully appreciate your
services for your country and
the great work you are now
engaged in for the freedman.
As I am a stranger to you,
Senators Morgan Freeman or
Wilson, a Chief Justice Chase
will inform you as to myself.
I remain with high respect
your obedient
Brigard R. Wood
Hope you will accept your friend
Washington, D.C.