

Washington, D.C.
October 18th 1868

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard,

My dear Sir: The enclosed Report of Committee on Education, of the Reconstruction Convention of Texas, exhibits the gist of the abinitio doctrine you heard so much about while in that State, and which was so much deprecated by those politicians, who is reported to have accepted a price in order to defeat the payment, in good money, of the \$320,392.78 paid in rebel scrip, at or about the end of the War!

You will see, that if we can command only the interest due the State, upon the vast amount of School money loaned these Railroads, we shall have ample means to build school houses and educate all the children of the State. The interest of 2 1/2 millions of dollars at 6% (specie) would be no contemptible amount to begin a school system upon in any State.

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It is the avowed purpose of a small minority (including every rebel) of the Convention, on its re-assembling, to defeat the immense funds this fund has engendered, and to hold the railroads to a strict account for principal ^{and interest} and I trust they may succeed.

I am attempting, General, to defeat a rebel combination headed by Giddings of Galveston, who is putting a man named Syndam in nomination for the office of Supervisor of Internal Revenue. They desire this office to control the revenue officers of the State and to remove our few loyal men in that branch of the public service. Mr. Walburn, Controller of Currency, Gen. Chapman, Mr. Huntington ~~and~~ myself and all the Texans now here, have recommended Mr. Glenn of Lavaca for this position, because he is a loyal man, honest, capable and worthy. He was a Union soldier and his appointment, will, I believe defeat the schemes of a "ring," who are bent upon fraud. Mr. Walburn is personally pressing his claims and if you could help the cause, General, the Union in Texas, would. I am sure, be indebted to you.

Very truly, Yours Chas.

A. M. Bennett

REPORT

THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.

July 23, 1868—Introduced, and Ordered to be Printed.

Hon. E. J. DAVIS, *President of the Convention.*

SIR: The undersigned, six members of the Committee on Education, beg leave to submit the following statement of our views in regard to the indebtedness of the Railroads of the State to the Special School Fund.

We find that by the legislation of 1839 and 1845, 2,302,560 acres of land were set apart to the 130 organized Counties of the State, as the basis of a Perpetual School Fund. About five sixths of this amount has been located and surveyed.

The Convention of 1866, in addition to the land grant to the counties, set apart for educational purposes the reserved sections of railroad lands, amounting to 2,548,070 acres; making a total land endowment of 4,850,630 acres.

Your committee is of the opinion that many years must elapse before any adequate amount will be realized from the sale of these lands. Any school system we may adopt will have to depend mainly for support upon other sources of income, until the stable reconstruction of laws and society in Texas shall have produced their good fruits in a more general prosperity, and the consequent rise in value of real estate.

In 1854, five per cent. U. S. Specie Bonds, to the amount of two millions of dollars, were set apart as a Special School Fund, to be applied towards the payment of teachers' salaries. To the history of this fund we invite your special attention.

In 1856, authority was given to loan this fund to railroad companies under certain conditions; the companies giving first mortgage bonds payable in ten years at six per cent., specie interest, with a further annual payment of two per cent. as a sinking fund. This act was amended in 1858, but these conditions were unchanged.

Under this law the Houston and Central R. R. borrowed in 1858-9, \$450,000. The interest on which was paid to March 1st, 1860.

From this date to January 20, 1864, no interest was paid. In the months of January, March, April, July and August, 1864, there were made so-called payments of interest in State warrants amounting to \$105,800.

The next payment occurred April 23d, 1866, in specie, to the amount of \$10,830.

During 1867 five payments were made in specie, the aggregate amounting to \$27,469.

In the opinion of your committee the so-called payment of interest in State warrants during the year 1864 amounting to \$105,800, is not an equitable payment and should not be credited as such. This sum deducted, the indebtedness of the Houston and Central road to the Special School Fund is as follows:

Interest due to March 1st, 1868,	\$193,284 59
Principal due,	432,090 00
Total,	\$625,374 59

The indebtedness of the Washington Co. R. R. is as follows:

Borrowed of the School Fund June 6th, 1859,	\$66,000 00
Paid to sinking fund June 6th, 1860,	1,320 00
Total principal due,	\$64,680 00
Interest due to March 1st, '68, after deducting all specie payments,	31,698 19

Total indebtedness to March 1st, 1868, \$96,378 19

There were so-called payments of interest and principal, made in State warrants during the years 1864-5, to the amount of \$47,090 20

Bogus

The Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado R. R. borrowed from the School Fund
at various times from March 1st, 1858, to December 17, 1859, - \$420,000 00
Paid to sinking fund, - - - - - 12,000 00

Total principal due, - - - - - \$408,000 00
Interest due, and unpaid to March 1st, 1868, - - - - - \$210,174 55

Total indebtedness to March 1st, 1868, - - - - - \$618,174 55
There were so-called payments of interest on this account during 1864, made in
State warrants, amounting to - - - - - \$98,019 25

The Houston Tap and Brazoria R. R. Company borrowed in 1859-60, in coin, \$300,000 00
Of which there is now due, - - - - - \$295,800 00
Interest due to March 1st, 1868, - - - - - 142,845 71

Total indebtedness, - - - - - \$438,645 71

The Southern Pacific R. R. Company borrowed of the School Fund in 1862,
in specie, - - - - - \$150,000 00
None of which has been paid.

Interest due to March 1st, 1868, - - - - - 52,625 25

Total indebtedness, - - - - - \$202,625 25

Texas and New Orleans R. R. borrowed of School Fund, in coin, - - - - - \$430,500 00
Interest due March 1st, 1868, - - - - - 164,666 25

Total indebtedness, - - - - - \$595,166 25

RECAPITULATION OF DEBT.

Houston and Texas Central, - - - - - \$625,374 59
Washington County, - - - - - 96,378 19
Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado, - - - - - 618,174 55
Houston Tap and Brazoria, - - - - - 438,645 71
Southern Pacific, - - - - - 202,625 25
Texas and New Orleans, - - - - - 595,166 25

Total, - - - - - \$2,576,354 54

Recapitulation of the amount of State warrants issued by the Rebel State Government during
the war and paid into the State Treasury as a specie payment on the School Fund debt:

Houston and Texas Central, - - - - - \$105,800 00
Washington County, - - - - - 47,090 20
Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado, - - - - - 98,019 25
Houston Tap and Brazoria, - - - - - 69,483 33
Total, - - - - - \$320,392 78

Your committee is of opinion that none of these so-called payments, made by railroads in State
warrants, during the late war, should be allowed by the loyal State government.

The policy of the so-called government of the State during the war was to maintain the value of
their paper money or warrants, issued for the carrying out of purposes hostile to the United States;
and, having this purpose in view, the pretended law was passed, under which these payments were made.

The foregoing being considered, and your committee being desirous to recommend such a decla-
ration as will secure the School Fund of the State in its just claims against these roads, as well as to
give the companies a fair opportunity to relieve themselves of these claims without hasty sacrifice of
property;—I have been instructed to report the following declaration, and to ask that it be incorporated
into the Constitution.

JOSEPH W. TALBOT, CHAIRMAN.

J. G. LIEB,

JACOB KEUCHLER,

RALPH LONG,

G. T. RUBY,

JAMES P. BUTLER.

(1)

Provided, That in making the first sale of any of the said railroads as hereinbefore provided, the Governor shall give a preference to the company or individual or person owning the same.

Provided further, That should the Governor not be able to sell any of said railroads, under the terms and conditions of the public auction mentioned.

DECLARATION,

Providing for the sale of such railroads of this State as may be indebted to the School Fund:

Provided further, That the indebtedness of said railroads, hereinbefore mentioned, is intended to include the total amount of principal and interest due from said railroads, without regard to any pretended payments made during the late rebellion, when such payments were made in any other currency than gold and silver.

SECTION 1. BE IT DECLARED by the people of Texas in Convention assembled, That the railroads within this State which are indebted to the School Fund, to wit, the Buffalo Bayou, Brazos and Colorado railroad; the Washington County railroad; the Houston and Texas Central railroad; the Houston Tap and Brazoria railroad; the Southern Pacific railroad; and the Texas and New Orleans railroad; shall be sold by the Governor of the State, either at public auction or private sale, as he may order, to any company or individual that will, in the particular case, assume the entire debt that may be due from the railroad sold, to the said School Fund; such sale to be under the following terms and conditions:

The company or individual purchasing any of the railroads sold under this provision, to deposit in the Treasury of the State, at the time of such sale, the one-fourth part of such indebtedness, which said fourth part may be used, under the supervision of the Governor, in putting the railroad sold, in good running order, or in extending the same.

That the company or individual purchasing any of said railroads under the provisions thereof, shall have a term of twenty years, within which to complete payment of the indebtedness to the School Fund; the payment to be made in equal semi-annual instalments, with interest at six per cent. per annum, payable also semi-annually. That, should any company or individual, who may purchase under the provisions hereof, fail to make any of the semi-annual payments, either of the amount of indebtedness to said School Fund, or of interest due, then the whole amount of such indebtedness and interest shall become due, and the railroad in possession of such company or individual shall be again sold by the Governor, under the terms and conditions of this declaration.

Provided, That in making the first sale of any of the said railroads as hereinbefore provided,
22 the Governor shall give a preference to the company or individual at present owning the same.

Provided further, That, should the Governor not be able to sell any of said railroads, under the
24 terms and conditions of this declaration, then he may sell the same at public auction uncondition-
25 ally, for such sums as may be offered for the same.

Provided further, That the indebtedness of said railroads, hereinbefore mentioned, is intended to
27 include the total amount of principal and interest due from said railroads, without regard to any
28 pretended payments made during the late rebellion, when such payments were made in any other
29 currency than gold and silver.

4 railroad; the Houston Tap and Brazoria railroad; the Southern Pacific railroad; and the Texas
5 and New Orleans railroad; shall be sold by the Governor of the State, either at public auction or
6 private sale, as he may order, to any company or individual that will, in the particular case, assume
7 the entire debt that may be due from the railroad sold, to the said School Fund; such sale to be
8 under the following terms and conditions:

The company or individual purchasing any of the railroads sold under this provision, to deposit
10 in the Treasury of the State, at the time of such sale, the one-fourth part of such indebtedness,
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12 sold, in good running order, or in extending the same.

That the company or individual purchasing any of said railroads under the provisions thereof,
14 shall have a term of twenty years, within which to complete payment of the indebtedness to the
15 School Fund; the payment to be made in equal semi-annual installments, with interest at six per
16 cent per annum, payable also semi-annually. That, should any company or individual, who may
17 purchase under the provisions hereof, fail to make any of the semi-annual payments, either of the
18 amount of indebtedness to said School Fund, or of interest due then the whole amount of such
19 indebtedness and interest shall become due, and the railroad in possession of such company or
20 individual shall be again sold by the Governor, under the terms and conditions of this declaration.

Cambridge, Mass.,
Oct. 18th. 1868.

Major Genl. O. O. Howard.

My Sir:

In the early part of last month, I wrote you a letter, and have received no answer from you. I presume you have not received it, as you were South, so I learned from the papers, at that time.

I tried to see you while you were in Richmond, Va., last August. I was there at the time. I feel it is no use writing to you. I have become disheartened, and feel I will never be able to carry out my plan. I hardly dare ask you to assist me now. If I had

them, I think, be all right.

My tuition for the full term is paid for, but meat and bread is not paid for, and I am now nearly out of money. I have some land, but I can not realize any thing for that now.

I should be pleased to hear from you, if you can find time to write me, and shall feel grateful for any aid, or advice, which you may give me.

With great esteem,

I am very truly,

Your obedient servant,

Wm. S. Basford.

Washington D.C. Oct. 19/68

Major Gen. C. O. Howard

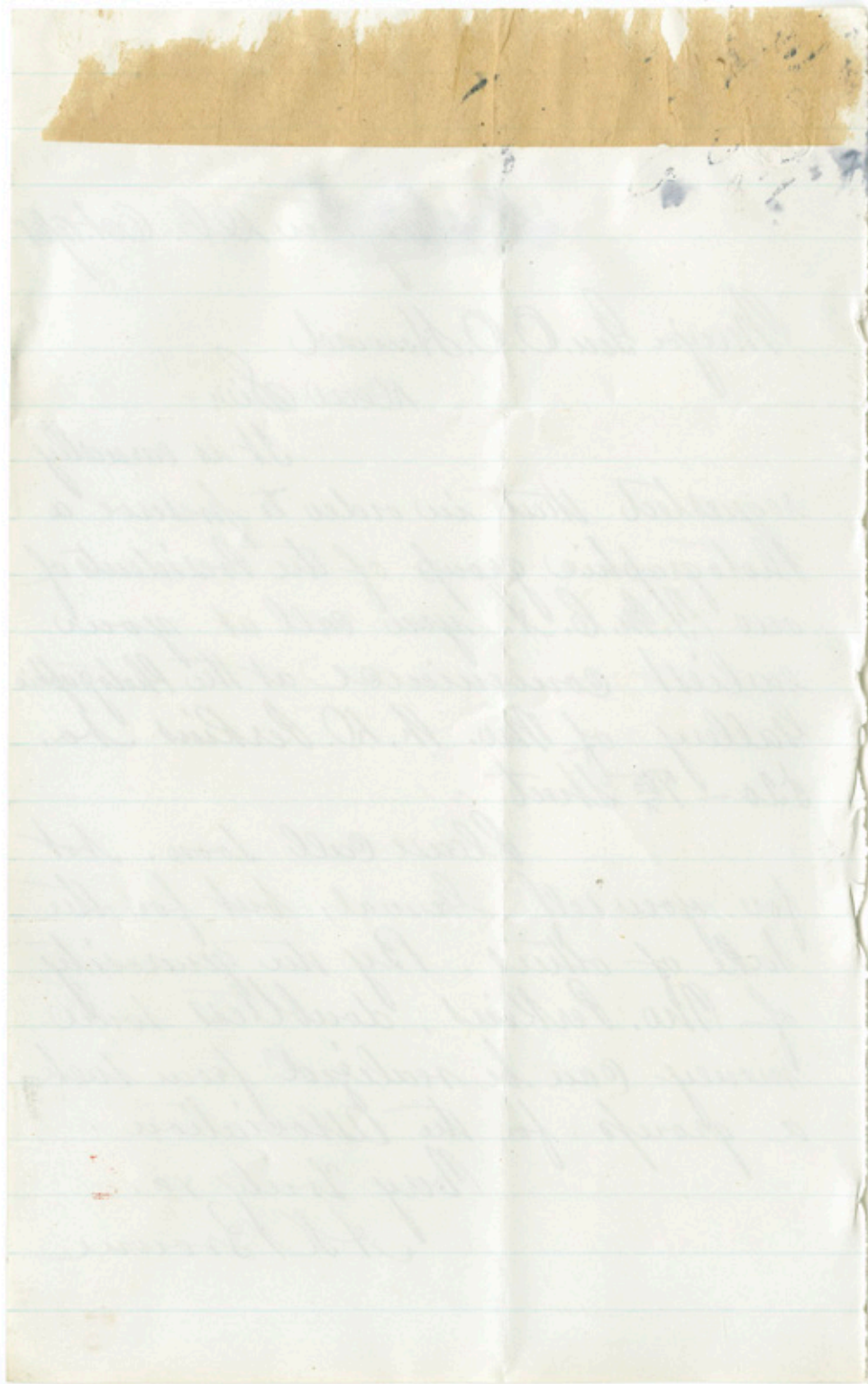
Dear Sir: -

It is earnestly requested that in order to preserve a photographic group of the Presidents of our N. M. C. A. you call at your earliest convenience at the Photographic Gallery of Mr. W. H. Perkins & Co. 520 - 7th Street.

Please call soon. Not for yourself, General, but for the sake of others. By the generosity of Mr. Perkins, doubtless some money can be realized from such a group for the Association.

Very Truly &c.

A. K. Browne



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Chattanooga, Oct 19th 1868.

Gen Howard

Dear Sir,

I am running a Bluffing
Car between this point and Atlanta Ga.
my salary is only \$50⁰⁰ per month,
and it is not enough to support my
family. I want to get something ^{that} will pay
me better. Dave Johnson whose is P.O.
Master at Griffin Ga. (Democrat) will cer-
tainly have to give up his appointment
after Gen Grants election. a friend of mine
whose name is Chas O. Johnson, made appli-
cation for the place at the time of Gov
Bullock's election. the appointment was
given him, but Congress adjourned before the
appointment was confirmed. Since that time
my friend C. O. Johnson, has been app-
ointed clerk in the Georgia State Road -
in the Office at this end of the Road
he says he does not want the place, and
will do all he can to assist me in getting

the appointment. I am very anxious to get
it. General I write to you in regard to
this matter to get you to use your influence
for me. I am aware that Mr. Pardee gets
so many letters for appointments, that he
would treat ~~my~~ mine as he does so
many others, not read them. I am well ac-
quainted in Griffin Ga. I married there. It
is the great rebel hole. They would hang me
once because I wouldn't go in
the rebel army.

General I will be under many obligations
if you will assist me in this matter.

Yours truly -
Thos. Ward.

Plucking Car Conductor
Between Atlanta and Chattanooga.

I had a conversation with you when you were
going north from Texas in Company with
Do —. You came up in my Car.
Atlanta

JAY COOKE & CO., BANKERS, 51

Fifteenth Street,

Washington, D. C. Oct 19th 1868.

Gen. O. O. Howard

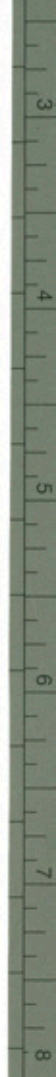
Dear Sir.

I take pleasure
in introducing to you Capt.
Chas. M. Keyser formerly of
the 15th U. S. C. I. and now
in the employ of Treps Flow.
man & Co. contractors for our
new I. M. C. A. Hall.

Mr. Keyser desires to consult
with you in relation to the
I. M. C. A. Stock, and I cor-
dially commend him to your
courtesy & confidence.

Truly Yours Jos. T. Brown

My dear Sir,
I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in relation to the proposed publication of a new edition of the "History of the City of New York." I am very glad to hear that you are so interested in the subject, and I am sure that your efforts will be successful. I have already written to the publishers, and they have agreed to publish the work. I am sure that it will be a great success, and I am sure that you will be very satisfied with the result. I am, Sir, very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
J. M. Smith



Charleston S. C.

Oct 20th 1868.

Respected sir

Being acquainted with Gen. Whitney and Gen. Chas. Howard by attendance at the Congregational Sunday school and knowing your earnestness. And desirous to write you in regard to the Newspaper, which I inclose you a copy.

I have been in South Carolina during the campaign. I came simply to help organize and speak for Grant and Colfax.

I saw the vital need of a newspaper. I went earnestly at work and have, in face of countless difficulties and perplexities put this wobbly paper on a pretty good footing. I have secured ^{first rate} ~~first~~ editor from New York and it is I think sure to live and prosper. I shall return to Washington proud of my work.

Now, "The Charleston Mercury" the original

fire eating - rebellious. Rhett and Barn-
well shut in bankrupt - judgments
now hang over it to an amount ^{for} beyond
the total value of everything in the office and
establishment. They paid off on Saturday
lost \$2.00 to each workman for the week's
labor. The Mercury must be sold within
a fortnight. We want to buy it and use
"The Mercury" the Charleston Mercury" as a
Grant and Colfax paper. We have not the
means. If we buy we shall not have the
cash remaining for running expenses
except the paper pay. If we get help in
the purchase we can carry on the paper.

I venture therefore to write you asking
if we cannot be helped. I enclose circular
to Gen Scott with his endorsement. Any
contribution for the paper may be sent to
him for the paper. He is doing all he can
for it. Sumner as he now is in the
excitements of our penurious days and
burdens with the responsibilities of such
critical days he has little time to write

He bids me feel use his name in any way
to forward the project. I send you copies of
the circular which he gladly endorses.

Pardon me sir for writing you. I can
in a measure speak disinterestedly for
I expect to return ~~from~~ to Washington after
the election - and can hope for little from
the paper but to be its Washingtonian Correspond-
~~ent~~ ent - I ask you therefore boldly, for
the cause and the party - for truth and
the rights of man - help me, if you can, in
this brave tough work, in South Carolina

Yrs. very truly & respectfully
Jno. M. Morris

To Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard.

Wm 41, 603 West, 14th St

For President:
U. S. GRANT.

For Vice President:
SCHUYLER COLFAX.



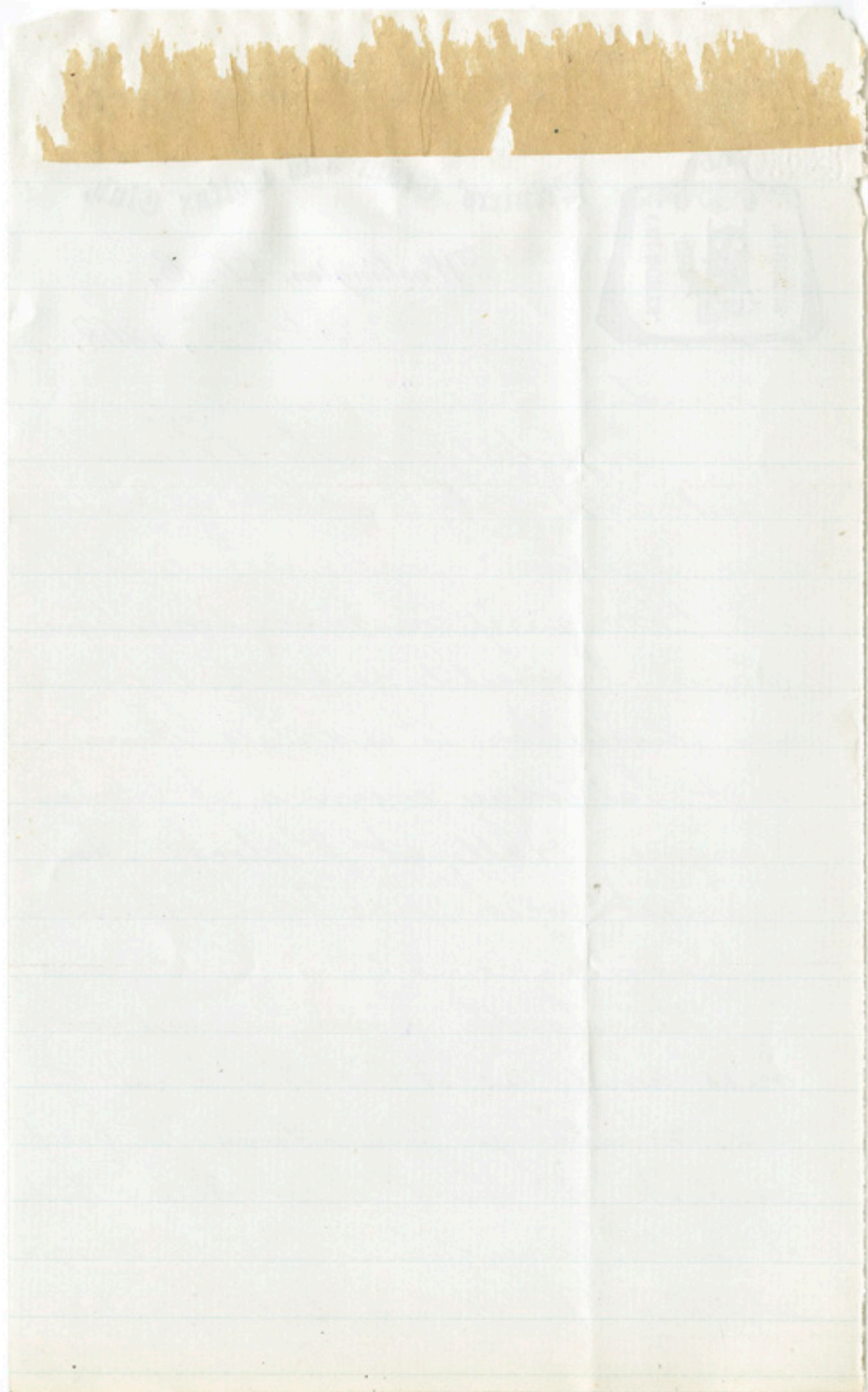
Printers' Grant and Colfax Club,

Washington, D. C.,

Oct 20th, 1868.

General:

In behalf of the Printers' Grant and Colfax Club, of which organization you were elected an Honorary member some time since, I would respectfully extend an invitation to address them next Saturday evening, at Union League Hall, at 8 o'clock. An earnest wish has been expressed to hear the condition of affairs in the South, from an eye-witness, and as it is the last of our meetings preceding the great contest of the 3^d November I think it will have the effect of stimulating the members to greater



efforts when they reach their homes,
for nearly every one leaves here
between then and the 3^d of Novem-
ber to cast a vote for the "People's
choice" Grant and Colfax.

A cordial reception awaits
you.

Please answer at earliest
convenience, that we may have
time to announce the fact.

Respectfully Yours,

G. W. Sriver,
Cor. Sec'y.

Address:—

"Gov't Print. Office."

8.47. 00 x 11, 1868

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Washington D.C.
Oct 20th 1868

General

The Asst Commissioner D.C. has informed me, (not officially) that after the close of my official connection with the Freedmen's Village Co. he will no longer require my services in his Department.

I have no other settled business, and would be glad to be able to make myself useful to the Bureau during the short time it will continue. You will greatly oblige me by consulting my case. Very
and finally I remain,

Very yours

My Dr C. D. Howard
Personal

W. H. Howard

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Fort Gibson, Ind. Terr.
October 20, 1868.

Genl. Howard,

Dear Sir;

Shall I be asking too great a favor if I desire you, at some time when it will incommode you least, to inquire of the Secretary of War, or of Colonel Meyer, whether I can be detailed for duty in the Signal Department U. S. A? An officer is being taken for this duty from nearly every regiment in the service; no one yet, however, from the 6th Inf., and the only officer thus far selected from this Dep't

Oct 1881, Mr. Davis
October 10, 1881.

Dear Sir,
I shall be
pleased to hear from you, of course,
when it will be convenient
to you, to visit me, to inspect
of the Secretary of War, or
of Colonel Thompson, whether
I can be detailed for duty
in the 2nd Artillery, as I am
U.S.A. The officer is being
taken for this duty from
my regiment, and only
in the 2nd Artillery; no one yet
from the 1st Artillery, and
the only officer there
detailed from this

was poor Beecher of the
3rd Inf. recently killed by
Indians. Should you
be pleased to repeat any
thing favorable you may
have heard of me from
Mr. Kimball, the late Mr.
Baxter or Judge Poland
of Vermont, I shall feel
exceedingly gratified and
obliged.

Very respectfully,

S. R. Dooley
1st Lieut. 6th Inf.

J. 1st. O. C. 2nd. vol. 4/1865

Jocelyn, J. S.

1st Lieut 6th Driftn

Requests the General
to recommend that he
be detailed for duty
in the Signal Dept

Capt. S.

Headquarters Fifth Military District,

STATE OF TEXAS,

Office of Acting Assistant Inspector General.

Austin, Texas, Oct 20 1868.

Major Genl. O. O. Howard,
Commissioner B.R.F. & A.

General - To Come

to the point, at once &
not have a long letter that
you have not time to read.

Can you aid our
worthy Commander in
promotion to the vacant
Brigadier General position
I think Gen J. J. Reynolds would
be a good selection and it
would be another step towards
law and order in Texas that
he is sustained.

We are doing as well as
it is possible to do with the
present force.

Health Happiness and

Prosperity to you and yours.

Truly Your friend
 Laurence O. Bennett
 Captain 17 Infantry
 A. A. I. 4 & A. J. 4