Augusta, Ga.
Nov. 27th 1865

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
Sir,

I take the liberty of writing you concerning an object that I desire to accomplish.

I have been trying at times since September 1865 to re-enter the Army, but up to the present it appears that all my efforts toward the accomplishment of that object have been useless, and now that General Grant is elected President of the United States I hope you will kindly assist me to accomplish what I so much desire. I ask simply to be appointed a Lieutenant in one of the Colored Regiments of the Army and to be subjected to the same examination that any other applicant for the same position would be. I have, I think, thousands of colored Soldiers in the Army and not one colored Officer. And I am satisfied that any number of volunteer officers have been commissioned in the
Regular Army who never saw the actual service that I did or occupied as high a grade in the service—I denied my Commission, never received it through the assistance of political friends for I did not have any, and I think justice demand that we should be allowed to serve as officers where required to serve as soldiers (if qualified). My first experience in life was in the Army I became attached to the Service and I love to look back and rehearse the humble part I bore in the struggle for the perpetuation of this Government and the Emancipation of the poor slave of my own race. I carried the musket at a time when it was of no use or interest to me to fight for the United States when the infamous fugitive Slave law was repealed. When the Sacred name of the highest judicial tribunal of the Country was used to rivet the fetters of my own relatives more tightly, I saw averse to politics and can never become a politician although I have aided
in every conceivable way as far as my present abilities would admit in restoring Georgia back to her relations with the general government—such work is accomplished, General Grant is elected, and the Reconstruction Act of Congress is a fait accompli, and the law of the land. And now that we are politically the Equal of any other race, there ought not to be a discrimination made in any branch of the public service and colored men ought not to be allowed to serve as common soldiers if they are not allowed to serve as officers. I am contending as much for principle as for the position. We want to have an equal chance in the race of life and to be judged according to merit, not by the color of our skin, and I know General you will concur with me in what I here express. Aside from what I say here relative to the position seek every colored man in the South ought to receive some kind of appointment under the Government for they cannot on account of the part they have taken in reconstruction...
Obtain employment here the prescriptive spirit that now prevail will exist during this generation. When you were in Atlanta last summer our trouble had not fairly commenced as the time drew near for the Election Murders by the Ku Klux Klan became more frequent in my County (Wilkes) several men who had frequented themselves obnoxious to our best friends (so called) were shot in bed with their wives and I had to leave and come here to save my life, Capt. Mill of the U.S.A. informed me that I could get protection only from the Sheriff who was no doubt accessory to all that was done. My life was attempted twice in twelve hours once while at Church on the Sabbath preceding the Election—But thank the good Lord it is over Genl. Grant is elected and the Rebel party is buried I hope never to be resurrected. The election in this State was a miserable farce—Mr. Sumner, General side aid you in any attempt you may deem prudent to make in breaking down the prejudice that now obscure a most important branch of the
Public service and I know of no person that I could request with more confidence than yourself to initiate what I conceive to be a good work, for you like our good President (Whose name is emblazoned in indelible letters upon the Martyrs roll in history) to have your name enshrined in the heart of every colored man and every Christian in this Country I ask for the position because I believe that I outranked any other colored man that was in the Army. Except Maj. Delaney and he was in the Medical Department, but so some colored man get an appointment in that branch of the Service. I care not whether I get it or not — But I should consider it a great honor to be the one selected. Hoping that you will do what you can for me in what I request after the inauguration of General Grant. Ever Very Respectfully
your obt. servt. Edwin Belcher
I love the service and would rather be a soldier than a member of Congress. I have been reading Major Nichols' story of the great 'March' and many of the incidents related by him are familiar to me— you know a part of my regiment's history. Colonel J.B. Kaffl speaks to-day. He could attest my good conduct. Colonel Cresson Dr. Gehrke thought of others could do the same. I am still a member of the Georgia Rebel Legislature and should Congress aid us in restoring our expelled members and now that Andrew Grant is elected. My services would not be needed here any longer than the next session.
Brooklyn, N.Y., Nov. 17, 1868

My dear friend,

I regret very much when you were here that I was so sick that I could not see more of you also in my home at our house. We hold this pleasure in reserve. I am better, but by no means well, am yet in the house most of the time.

At a meeting of our Church last week, we responded to the invitation to attend an Episcopalian Council to be held at Washington tomorrow, the Church thinking I should be well enough to go on. Chose me as delegate to accompany Dr. Stowe, but I find it impossible and it would be very impudent for me to attempt it. I regret this very much for I am anxious to meet the members of your Church and in a kind Christian spirit.
As what I can to heal your mind
and have you all united in by
your best endeavors to build up
in Washington a Model Cong. -

d Church? I think with patience
and perseverance this can be done.

The Church of the Pilgrims feels
a deep interest in this matter.
And as you know have tested it by a liberal Contribution to
your building fund. You and the
Minority must hold on, do not be
discouraged, you will come out
all right yet. Don't think of
Withdrawing. Your Church has
Called a Mutual Council for the
13th of January, this I hope to hold
to attend. You say in your letter to
Dr. Story, you & your friends have
been invited to meet with that Con-
cl - If the Church were Calling
Council you and the minority are just as much members of that Council as the majority, you and an invitation it is a right according to Congressional usage, and you are in duty bound to exercise it. I have no doubt you will.

Dr. Storey has just returned from Norwich. I don’t know as he will be able to go on, I know he desires to in country to you, he will write you if he does not go.

It is the majority of this Church and Dr. Davenport we wish to see and I must confess it does not seem to me we can do much until we can meet both parties together. Still I should certainly go on now were I well enough.

With kind regards from Mr. B. my daughter to Mr. Howard I remain truly yours.

W. R. Pike
D.C. Howard
Washington D.C.
Soldiers' and Seamen's Monument Association
OF GERMANTOWN,
TWENTY-SECOND WARD, PHILADELPHIA.

Its object shall be the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of the men from this Ward, who in the late rebellion, died, that their country might live. Said monument to be erected at such place as may hereafter be determined upon.

Germantown, April 29, 1868

Gen'l O. O. Howard
Dr. General

Please accept our cordial invitation to attend a course of lectures to be held in our church and preach by dedicated to here you deliver one of them for us. We propose having Tuesday evenings of each week commencing on the 21st of present month. Please let us know when you can put your name on our list with your lecture.

This truly,

J. C. Griffith, Chm.
141 Price St., Germantown.

[Signature]

141 Price St.
Washington, D. C., November 17th, 1868

Major Gen. O. O. Howard,
Washington, D. C.

General,

I have the honor to hand you, herewith,

two Military Rolls of claimants, employed under

Joint direction by Capt. Nathan Barker, A. 2nd

[Deceased], which need your approval.

Please approve the same and return to

me, that they may be filed with Capt. Barker's

vouchers for payment for the services.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

O. W. Cooke,

Att'y for Heirs of Capt. Barker.

Enclosures.
18th. Nov. 1868. Columbus, Ohio.

Mr. S. M. Hutchins, the Chairman of our Lecture Committee for the Course before the U. S. C. L. A. informs me you are expected here about the 1st. of Jan. I possibly you remember the conversation you had with him at Detroit about spending the Sabbath with us. We all hope you can do so. I wish you to speak in my Church the 1st. Con. as a part of the day. You will have a congregation of six or seven hundred young people mostly from the Middle Class of our City. Your words for
Jesus has much needed in this wicked city. In this request I am seconded by all Christian workers here. When you come among us you will be entertained by some of our Church people. We hope to make your stay here a pleasant one. Will you oblige me by informing me what day you propose to lecture here? If you will consider this request for the Sabbath?

Yours Very Truly,

(R.) George W. Phillips

Gen. O. R. Howard Washington D.C.
Kingsville Ashland C.O.  
Nov. 18th 1868

General Howard

My dear Sir,

We are forming a Young Men's Christian Association in this place and feel the need of funds which we are in hopes to raise in part by a Lecture Course. Will you be any where near us at any time this Winter? And can you give us a Lecture? I shall be in hopes to remunerate you suitably.

Very Respectfully,

Yours,

To General Howard  
J.B. Cory  
Washington  
D.C.
S. DUKE,
LAND AGENT,
AND-
GENERAL TAX-PAYER.

TREASURER'S OFFICE,
CASS COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

Plattsmouth, Dec. 24th, 1867

Enclosed I have

An Order on Treasurer of Pawnee

with two hundred dollars of 1867

[Signature]

In Cass Co.
Treasurer's Office

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]

[Handwritten text]
Dear General,

I have rec'd your check for the amount I paid on the lot of land sometime ago transferred to you, and it put it my duty to say in reply to your remark that you had been account of all manner of speculations, that I placed the matter in your hands because I believed you to be a Christian man, and knowing that if it was just and proper you would reimburse me the sum paid. This has all been proven to me now inasmuch as you have paid me and at this time when I so much need it; and it most respectfully thank you for your great kindness.

I was obliged to sell the land, and but for you you could never have regained what I had paid.

Very truly,

and with great respect,

your humble servt.,

Wm. Henry Sessions.

W. Gen'l. C. C. Howard.
Providence, Nov 19th /68.

President Howard,

Dear Sir,

Please accept, for the benefit of Washington College, the enclosed check for one hundred dollars, from -

Yours Truly,

Anna Richmond.

Address: 

Mrs Anna Richmond
42 College St.
Providence
R.I.
War Department,
Adjutant General's Office.
Washington, Nov. 19, 1868.

Major General O. O. Howard,
Commissioner Freedman's Bureau,
Washington, D.C.

General:

In reply to your communication of Nov. 11, 1868, I have the honor to inform you that the Index to General orders from this Office for 1867 is now out of print and there are no copies on hand for distribution.

I am Very Respectfully,
John Obadiah Smith
ED Townsend
Assistant Adjutant General.