Rev. EDW. P. SMITH,
Gen'l Field Agent

American Missionary Association,
No. 53 John Street,

~~New York,~~ 1869

Macon, Ga Aug 15 1870

Mrs. Jas. Howard

Dear Madam,

I take the liberty to forward a note I have recd. from the manufacturer of the Bradbury Piano. It was written with the expectation that I was to see Jas. Howard on my Southern trip. I enclose also a Price List of his Pianos — His "Cost Price" will be from one third to one half the figures named in this list.

For the sake of having one of his instruments in my home, as well as on general principles, (being one of the "Smith family"), I have no doubt he will deal fairly & liberally.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt Svt. Edw. P. Smith

Hammondsville Jan. 15. 1870

Dear Brother

Mother is too busy getting ready to go West to write an answer to Lizzies good letter. I fear. She proposes to start from Auburn in company with a Mr Perkins Jan 25th. Mr P. goes to Chicago with a little daughter. Mother seems as well as usual and we dread having her go away. She will return as soon as the Spring opens, and is as happy here probably as she could be anywhere in the world. Many friends will probably visit Auburn in this town & then go

This is the second daughter Hamilton & Ann received & better. Mother "Hamilton" & Ann left yesterday for Charlotte Perkins seem happy, but we have to go for the children and 20 for Anne Perkins service, & will probably have as much (500 $) as annual expense. Ann - Dear with the ladies will increase the pleasure and the occasion I bring from Jean to Jean - Good health it's Mother & Lizzie & two children in addition & Mother blessed pair - Yr affectionate Brother

Nathan

friends in Leeds. Her
health is very poor & her
nerves quite unstrung. So
she & mother do not
always help each other
happiness so much as
they could if both were
well. We are having a
mild winter with splendid
sleighing on less than a
foot of snow. I owe Mr
Rankin an answer to
his kind letter about
Lowell. God does not
seem to open the way
for me to leave Farmington
yet. If He did I would
like Mr. Rs old Church
in L. very much. Please
give him this message
with many thanks if
you think of it. I enclose

Mate receipt of our quarterly "Evangelist" under
the new scheme. No difficulty has arisen in
collection. We are running near another
year. I think it helps very the position
of the Church. I have received her letter
to Mr Clan last year from all Lancas-
ter & Mr Clan has since accepted
the Pastorship in Lynn. I am so
glad I will be near Theodore & Sister it & are
right I preaching on Ps. 33. 3. "Sing unto him
Lord & do good & sing unto him with a

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Office of Education.

Washington, D.C. Jan. 15, 1870.

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard.

Dear Sir.

Dr Barnard desires me to write to you, requesting that you will have the kindness to invite General Armstrong to call here & see him, should he visit Washington soon.

Yours truly.

H. E. Rockwell

Washington D.C.
Jan: 15th 1870.

Maj: Genl. O. O. Howard
Comd'r. B of R. F. & A. L.

Dear Sir

Some month or two since you consented to deliver a lecture for Howard Div: No. 7 S of T; in a course of free lectures, that it was intended to give this winter, but owing to the low state of the finances of the Div:, the project has been abandoned

It was understood that you would be made aware of the state of the case, in regard to these lectures, when the invitation should be given to you, to speak at our dedication, Bro. Chas. H. Hills G.W.P. informs me this evening, that you were not so told of the discontinuing of the free lectures, and fearing that you may still consider yourself bound by your previous engagement, I write this note

Yours
Very Respectfully
Your obd't. Svt
K. N. Rothery

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☞ To obtain Registered Letters, the party must be known, or be indentified by some reliable persons.

Post Office, Washington, D. C.,

Jany 15, 1870.

To Major Genl O. O. Howard

You are hereby informed that there is a letter of value received at this office to your address.

Please call at the desk of the Chief Clerk.

J. M. Edmunds,

Postmaster.

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Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance, Co.

OF HARTFORD, CONN.

All Policies Non-Forfeiting. Organized 1846.

One of the oldest and largest Life Insurance Co.'s in the United States.

L. L. BARNARD, General Agent,

OFFICE, 13 WHAT CHEER BUILDING.

Current Dividends from 40 to 70 per cent.

Providence, Jan. 17th 1870.

Major Gen. O. O. Howard.
Washington. D. C.
Dear Sir.
Will you please, have the kindness to inform me, where I can direct a Letter, so that it will reach George. F. Marble and oblige.

Respectfully. Yours.
L. L. Barnard.
Genl Agent. Walford.

War Department,
Surgeon General's Office,
Washington, Jany 17th 1870

Dear General

Doctor Nichols has left with me the copy of proceedings of the last meeting of the Board of Visitors. If it will be convenient for you to call with me upon the Secretary of Interior at 2 P.M. on Wednesday (19th) I will

ask Mr. Cooke to join us at my Office at three hour

Very truly
Your
[illegible]

Genl O. O. Howard

New Bedford Jan. 17.
[1870]

Genl. O. O. Howard
Washington.

Dear Sir.

I am now trying to obtain a collection of the autographs of the most eminent men of this country, and I should by no means consider my list complete without yours. Now sir, if you would please be so kind as to send it to me you would greatly oblige

Your most obedient servant

George S. Lewis.

138 Union St.
New Bedford
Mass.

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Boston Jany 17. 70

1870

Dear Genl.

My engagements were such that I did not exchange with Bro Rankin as he proposed.

I am having extra meetings — very v. g. — Some conversions. / My own dear children interested.

By & by, say March or Apl. / If Bro Rankin wd like to come this way I shd be glad to exchange.

My thanks for your kind invitation.

Fraternally E. B. Webb.

Nº. 4,526.

TELEGRAMS, &c.

The British brig Cuba, Captain Mackell, from Matanzas to Boston, with molasses, has been totally wrecked near Hatteras Light. The captain was badly injured. Only two seamen were saved. The lost were Charles Cam, mate; William Williams, second mate; George Smith, steward; M. Maculey and John A. Lonagan, seamen, and a boy named Frederick.

The soldiers under Lieut. Force had a battle with the Snake Indians lately, at Brunt river, on the Pacific coast, killing or capturing a considerable party, with a loss of four soldiers and nine wounded. Reports of Indian outrages in Oregon, Washington, and the Idaho mining regions, are frequent. Col. Cappinger had several brushes with the Owyhee Indians in the middle of August, killing twenty or thirty in all.

A card from the bank presidents in Richmond says:—"The commercial failures" reported by a special telegram to the Northern press are false. None have occurred. Commercial bills are being met as promptly as ever before. Some parties out of commercial circles, and insolvent at the fall of Richmond, have gone into bankruptcy.

Myer Marks, M. Marks, H. J. Marks, and Jacobs were yesterday convicted at Warren, Pennsylvania, and received heavy fines and imprisonment, for secreting the goods of M. Marks for the purpose of defrauding H. B. Claflin and other New York creditors of M. Marks.

Governor Geary, of Pennsylvania, has issued a proclamation, as required by law, setting forth that the sum of $1,794,644 50 of the principal debt of the Commonwealth was paid, cancelled, extinguished, and finally discharged during the year ending September 2, 1867.

A terrific boiler explosion at the turning mill of Abram R. Welsh, on 28th street, New York, occurred yesterday. The engineer and fireman were killed, and several others wounded. The boiler was hurled nearly five hundred feet, and, falling into a private house, killed two children.

Partial returns from thirty-seven counties in California give Haight nearly 8,000 majority. The general Democratic majority is about 2,000 less.

The anniversary of the admission of California was celebrated in San Francisco yesterday with a procession of the pioneers and a banquet.

John Allen, Deputy Revenue Collector at Brooklyn, New York, was arrested yesterday morning, charged with fraud.

The steamer Manhattan, from Charleston, arrived in New York last night, with General Dickles on board.

The construction of a street railway was commenced in Augusta, Ga., yesterday.

THE MAINE ELECTION.

Republican Victory.

PORTLAND, ME., Sept. 9.—The following election returns have been received: Portland—Chamberlain, Republican, for Governor, 1,625; Pillsbury, Democrat, 1,311. Lewistown—Chamberlain, 777; Pillsbury, 304. Bangor—Chamberlain, 1,304; Pillsbury, 1,053. Gardiner—Chamberlain, 499; Pillsbury, 270. Pittstone — Chamberlain, 216; Pillsbury, 202. Scarboro'—Chamberlain, 114; Pillsbury, 223. Bath—Chamberlain, 700; Pillsbury, 386. Falmouth — Chamberlain, 175; Pillsbury, 170. Cape Elizabeth—Chamberlain, 316; Pillsbury, 192. Brunswick — Chamberlain, 416; Pillsbury, 395. Harris—Chamberlain, 363; Pillsbury, 262. Gorham—Chamberlain, 321; Pillsbury, 229.

Sixteen towns give Chamberlain, Republican, 8,089; Pillsbury, Democrat, 5,639, being a majority of 2,450 for Chamberlain. The same towns last year gave Chamberlain a majority of 5,819, showing a Democratic gain this year of 3,369.

The Republican loss in Bath is 247.

Biddeford gives a Democratic majority of 100, against 90 last year.

One hundred and nine towns give Chamberlain, Republican, 27,715; Pillsbury, Democrat, 15,682. The same towns last year gave Chamberlain 31,690; Pillsbury, 16,565. Chamberlain's majority this year, 6,032, against 15,125 in the same towns last year, making a Republican loss of 9,053. The aggregate vote in these towns is 43,398, against 48,215 last year.

The total vote in the State last year was 81,584. This year it will probably fall under 80,000.

Three-fourths of the vote of the State is in, with less than nine-fifteenths of the majorities of last year. The same ratio will reduce the total majority to 13,500, or less than 14,000.

The Democrats gain representatives in some of the towns, but not enough to give them much power in the Legislature.

The ale and cider law of last year has undoubtedly caused much loss to the Republicans.

Sheridan's Ovation in St. Louis Last Night.

The demonstration in St. Louis last night in honor of General Sheridan was the largest outpouring of people ever witnessed in that city. The torchlight procession was nearly [illegible] miles long, and consisted of over twenty thousand of the Army of the Republic. A large number of other organizations, representatives of the various wards of the city, the fire department, and an immense throng of citizens generally, took part in the demonstration. The procession was nearly an hour in passing the Southern Hotel, on the east balcony of which General Sheridan, his staff officers, members of the various committees, and invited guests were stationed. The crowd that lined in the vicinity of the hotel after the procession had passed must have numbered 50,000, and the number on the streets on the line of march could not have been less than from twenty to thirty thousand persons.

After the enthusiasm of the crowd had somewhat subsided Lieutenant Governor Smith delivered a short but very cordial welcome to the General on behalf of the people of the State, which was followed by a very eloquent address by General Carl Schurz.

General Sheridan then stepped forward and replied as follows: "I presume you all know I never make speeches. I regret exceedingly that I am unable to make you one to-night, but this very kind welcome has been unexpected by me entirely, and I can only return my sincere thanks for your enthusiastic and kind welcome."

A few remarks were afterward made by General Pell, and the crowd gradually dispersed.

IMPORTANT DECISION.—Judge Ty being last delivered an able opinion [illegible] most important cases that ev[illegible] our county, the property in c[illegible]

A PUBLIC PARK.

Editor Star: During the past sessions of Congress, while the subject of a Public Park was so frequently alluded to, it seems really strange that due importance should not have been attached to the beautiful park we have, almost ready at our hands—the "*Public Mall.*" It covers a space that extends from the square east of the Capitol, directly west to 17th street, varying in width from 200 to 500 yards. Were it proposed to purchase this large tract of ground, in the very midst of our city, we might justly pause at the enormous expense it would incur, but when we reflect that it is already the property of the United States, and especially reserved for the use of the public, and the comparatively trifling appropriation it would require to throw the whole of these reservations (including President's grounds and Lafayette Square) into one continuous public park, it seems really surprising that they should be left in their present uninteresting condition. To advocate the advantages of such a park to our city would be an unnecessary task to any reasonable being, yet while suggestions are made for the purchase of property adjacent to our city, and difficult of access, our people seem blind to the advantages of these public reservations for park purposes, which are in our very midst. At present the majority of these are but big public squares, surrounded by high paling fences, and generally as uninteresting as so many acres of stubble.

We will search in vain for a tract of ground (that we are likely to obtain) that has so many advantages as the public spaces indicated, for a public park. This tract of ground is accessible by at most a ten minutes walk from almost any part of our city. It runs parallel to Pennsylvania avenue through its entire length, and being immediately adjacent thereto, it would not only supply a delightful retreat, but could be made to furnish a magnificent highway for those passing to and fro in our city who have business in the departments, and who wish to escape the alternating mud and dust of Pennsylvania avenue.

While on this subject I will allude to one that immediately bears upon it, and which has been heretofore discussed. I refer to the plan for reclaiming the low grounds adjoining the Monument Square and near the little island at the mouth of the canal. By filling up these low grounds some fifteen acres of land could be made for the Government, and the appearance of the river front at that part of the city greatly improved. Viewing this last projected improvement in connection with the conversion of the public mall into a park, its importance will be perceived if we imagine the improvement made, a bridge thrown across the canal at Sixteenth street, and direct communication thus afforded between the avenue, President's House and Departments, and the objects of public interest in the southern part of our city. This connection would not be as now, through dusty thoroughfares, but through a beautiful and interesting public park.

It is not thought that these improvements are at all in conflict with the plan of the lamented Downing, but rather that they are in support of his plan; but his ideas seem to have been consigned to the "tomb of the Capulets," and the mall remains an unsightly barren waste, only intersected by the ordinary streets and a by-path here and there for pedestrians.

It is only my purpose to suggest the general idea of speedily converting the mall and adjacent grounds into a Public Park, and leave the details of carrying it into execution to such engineers as may be charged with it. Were the suggestions not premature I might say that the present unsightly fences could be removed, the northern and southern border of the grounds enclosed by a neat low iron railing, ornamental entrances made where the street intersect the mall, and the most frequented thoroughfares well paved and heavy draughts confined to those thus paved. Again it would vary the monotony of straight streets and square corners to have some of the roads intersecting the mall and connecting the two portions of our city as above made in curved lines, or in shape of the figure 8, which would leave pretty elliptical plots between the roadways.

The Washington city canal might then cease to be an unsightly object. We could have a daily influx of pure fresh water held between its walls and covering the offensive objects that sometimes assail the eyes and noses of those in its vicinity. Were the suggested improvement in the mall carried out, the temporary places of business on the borders of the canal would and should be removed to where they properly belong—the river front. Some may think that this might decrease the revenues of our corporation, but if all the canal trade were removed to the river front the increase of the valuation of property on the river front would cause the assessments of taxes thereon to counterbalance the loss of revenues from the canal.

Washington is in the anomalous position of a city with a good river front, on which but little business is done, while the major part of its trade is carried on, on its largest thoroughfare, from three-fourths of a mile to a mile from the river. The canal, now, is neither ornamental nor profitable. Intersecting, as it would, the public park spoken of, it could be made highly ornamental. Its banks could be widened at any point, its depth lessened, and an artificial lake formed; while the remaining portion could be enclosed by a small iron railing, and the whole of it used for sewerage in the same manner as at present. A small dredger kept therein would be sufficient to remove the sediment and deposit from sewers that would from time to time find its way therein.

Practically one cannot see the advantage of the canal for business purposes, and the best reason to be given for that opinion is the fact that wood, coal, lime, sand, cement, lumber, and such articles as are generally sold on its borders can be purchased at the same rates in any other portion of our city and deliverable at any other portion. The force of these suggestions will be felt by any one who will pass from Pennsylvania avenue, pause for a moment on one of our bridges and observe the class of trade and buildings that the canal has created on its borders, and then pass on to the mall.

These are only a few general ideas roughly thrown together. The subject is one, however, that will be found to grow in the hands of anyone who will devote a little reflection to it, and whether we are to have a "Park" just outside the city limits or not, we have the material for a park here in our midst, within a stone's throw of Pennsylvania avenue, which a comparatively trifling expenditure would convert into a most beautiful retreat. It would involve no great expense at present; perhaps the planting of trees is the only thing really necessary now to prepare these public reservations for what they should be according to the design here presented.

An article in the *Intelligencer* lately pointed how overdrives could be made across the unning through the Public Grounds ommodation of the carriage-ways ounds. W. D. Wise.

Washington, January 17th 1870.

Major General O. O. Howard,
Howard University,

My Dear Sir;

The earnest interest that I have observed you take in everything that pertains to the welfare of Washington prompts me to submit to your consideration the enclosed suggestions communicated by me to the press some time since relative to a Public Park. In a subsequent communication I added to the ideas enclosed the suggestions, that such a park would be essentially a poor man's park as it would be accessible to the laboring and mechanical classes after the completion of their days labor, and I furthermore advanced the idea that the positions of watchmen, gate-keepers

&c. should be filled by disabled veteran soldiers of the Republic.

If the enclosed suggestions strike you favorably I hope we will be able to advance them.

I remain,

Yours, with great respect

Wm. D. Wise

No. 83 – 4½ St.

60 1/2

Washington D.C.
Jan. 18th 1870.

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Sir:

Recalling to your memory a very pleasant conversation I had the honor of having with you some time since, I beg leave to submit to your consideration the following suggestions relative to beneficially utilizing convict labor, without detriment to honest skilled industry. I have presented the same suggestions to the Committee on the District of Columbia, in the House of Representatives, endeavoring to set forth the advantages that would accrue both to the District of Columbia.

and to parties committed to prison, charged with or convicted of crime, by employing such parties in such manner as would conduce to the general good, would be healthful and profitable to themselves, and at the same time would not be obnoxious to censure from honest skilled artisans, untainted by the suspicion of crime.

Washington is, perhaps of all our cities, in proportion to its population, the one that produces the greatest number of persons committed to prison, charged with crime. Many poor wretches, in default of bail, are committed to prison to await trial, and perhaps, in default of prosecution, or on account of the frivolous nature of the offence, are dismissed after two or three months of imprisonment. Such persons are entitled to their liberty until their trial, if they could obtain

bail, but in default of security there appears no sound reason why they should not be employed and paid for their services while awaiting trial.

To employ them in manufactures would be to bring them in competition with honest, skilled mechanics, men who have learned their trades after steady application, and oftimes after considerable expense, and such a course degrades honest labor, and necessarily engenders ill feeling in the laboring and mechanical classes. My suggestions indicate how they can be employed in a manner remunerative to themselves, conducive to the public interest and detrimental to nobody. In a word I would employ such

persons in the improvement of our harbor.

The day is perhaps far distant, when our corporation will be able or willing to improve our river front as it should be, and we can hardly expect that Congress will improve our harbor by direct appropriation. The employment of convict labor then, in this work, could not be detrimental even to the poorest laborer in Washington D.C.

A small per diem allowance to persons convicted of crimes, trivial in their nature, and persons held in default of security would be of great advantage to such unfortunates. The necessaries for ordinary comfort in prison, counsel fees, &c., would be among the number, not to speak of the advantage of a little capital to a party released from prison, whether innocent or guilty, to re-embark in the voyage of life

The dredging of our channels is eminently practicable and desirable and can be done by the labor of convicts, and persons awaiting trial, who I believe would prefer exercise in the open air to close confinement in prison walls. Some of the many old government ships could be detailed for the work, and all of the reformatory features of the Penitentiary system could be made available in the system suggested by me.

The guards could be both custodians of prisoners and superintendents of labor, and all the discipline, religious services, &c. could be assimilated to those of improved prison life. By this plan much waste land now covered by tide water could be reclaimed, the value of

which would materially assist in liquidating the expense incident thereto, besides being of great advantage to the health of the city.

To some this may seem utopian, visionary and impracticable, and in this connection I respectfully refer to an Editorial in the New York Tribune, Dec. 21st, 1867, in which the writer takes ground against antagonizing the interests of the Mechanics and laboring classes by convict labor. After discussing the merits of the question the writer quotes from an English report in reference to a colony of convicts in Ireland, who were set to work reclaiming swampy lands. The lands thus reclaimed were made fit for cultivation, the grain and vegetables produced were of superior quality, the convicts besides being self sustaining, were a source of profit to the Government, and last, but not least, the

reformatory influences were so great and the education of the convicts as practical farmers and gardeners so complete, that applications were received by their wardens for convicts about to be discharged, from the neighboring farmers, offering such persons immediate employment as farm hands, greater than the establishment could supply.

In conclusion I may state that these suggestions have been favorably endorsed by the Washington Board of Trade and have met the approval of the Judges of our Supreme Court, D.C., as well as our Major of Police.

Recommending these suggestions to your progressive spirit, not less than to

your humanity and philanthropy,

I am, very respectfully your obt. Servant

(Signed) Wm. C. Wise

No. 83 4½ Street.

Section 1st. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the United States that from and after the passage of this act it shall be lawful for either Judge of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, who may be sitting as a Judge of the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia, to permit any male person convicted of crime in the District of Columbia, the penalty for which is or may be confinement at hard labor in Washington County Jail or Albany Penitentiary, or any other prison that Congress may hereafter designate, to elect, before sentence shall be passed, between confinement at hard labor in Washington County Jail, if the penalty for the offence for which he shall have been convicted shall have been heretofore imprisonment in Washington County Jail or Albany Penitentiary or other prison as aforesaid, and imprisonment at hard labor, as hereinafter provided for, in improving the channels of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers and reclaiming the lowlands adjacent thereto.

Section 2nd And be it further enacted that from and after the passage of this act it shall be lawful for either Judge of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to permit any male person or persons, charged with crime and committed to Washington County Jail in default of bail and awaiting trial, at the request of such person or persons charged with crime to be transferred to the prison-ship as hereinafter provided for, there to be kept in safe custody and employed in the labor of improving the channels of the Potomac and Anacostia rivers and reclaiming the low lands adjacent thereto, until the day for his or their trial shall arrive, or he or they shall have been legally discharged, and any person or persons, so employed, while awaiting trial, shall receive for his or their services a compensation of cents per diem each.

Section 3rd And be it further enacted, that to aid in carrying out the provisions of this act, the

Secretary of the Navy be and he is hereby directed to select from among the unseaworthy vessels of the United States Navy, one well adapted to the purposes of a prison-ship to remain in the Potomac or Anacostia rivers, until substituted by another when necessary and to be under the jurisdiction and superintendence hereinafter provided.

Section 4th And be it further enacted that it shall be lawful for the Secretary of Interior to appoint a Warden of the Prison-Ship, who shall have care and custody of all convicts and persons awaiting trial on Prison-Ship and who shall receive for his services an annual salary of dollars

Section 5th And be it further enacted that it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Interior to appoint guards to aid the Warden of the Prison-Ship in the care and custody of convicts and persons awaiting trial as aforesaid, and who shall receive for their

services an annual salary of
dollars each.

Section 6th And be it further enacted that it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a Superintendent of Convict Labor who shall have care custody and Superintendence of all convicts and persons held on the Prison ship awaiting trial, as above provided, during their hours of labor, and while going from and returning to the Prison ship and who shall receive for his services a salary of dollars per annum.

Section 7th And be it further enacted that to aid the Superintendent of Convict Labor, as hereinbefore provided for, in the performance of the duties of his office it shall be lawful for the Secretary of the Interior to appoint foremen and guards to assist in the superintendence of the labor of and the safe-keeping of the Convicts and other persons held awaiting trial, as hereinbefore provided and the said foremen shall receive for their salary

services an annual salary of dollars and the guards hereinbefore provided for shall receive an annual salary of dollars.

Section 8th And be it further enacted that all the rules of labor and other details necessary for carrying out the provisions of this act shall be prescribed by the Secretary of Interior.

Section 9th And be it further enacted that to carry out the provisions of this act the sum of dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated.