Perkins Institution and Massachusetts Asylum for the Blind,

BOSTON, April 11, 1870.

MR. DEMPSEY B. SHERROD.

SIR: — I have received a pamphlet, made up, mainly, of certificates of persons whom you have persuaded that you are honestly trying to promote the education of the Blind in the United States, by printing embossed books.

The first, is one written by me, before I knew you personally; merely wishing you success in your undertaking.

This is a dishonest use of my name; because, if my opinion is worth anything to the public, you should print the one I formed after observing your course; and which I gave you, to your face, two years ago; to wit: that I had lost all faith in you, and in your professions.

You have been at work many years, professedly to print books for the Blind. You have raised thousands of dollars.* You have lived upon the fat of the land. You have procured the passage of one of the most extraordinary acts ever passed by a Legislative body — the act by which you and your sister (who is not blind) are quartered for life upon the Mississippi State Institution for the Blind. An act utterly inconsistent with the object of that Institution, which is mainly for the education of young blind persons. An

* The Trustees of the American Printing House for the Blind, established in Louisville, Ky., are eminent and reliable gentlemen. There is much significance in the following passage from their last Report: —

"Mr. D. B. Sherrod acted as Agent of this Institution for a few weeks in 1859 and 1860; but he was not authorized by this Board to solicit donations, nor did he ever make a financial report to the Board, nor pay any money to the Treasurer of this Institution. the Trustees of this Institution deem it their duty to the public to state distinctly that no person has ever been authorized to use the name of this Institution, the name of this Board, or the name of any member of this Board, in connection with any printing institution for the blind, except the "American Printing House for the Blind," which, by the united action of several States, has been permanently established in Louisville, Kentucky."

act against which, the Trustees of that Institution have been obliged to protest; because it is one of scandalous favoritism.†

In all this time; with all these advantages; with all this money — you have not given to the Blind any books at all. On the other hand, you have done harm to the cause of their education, by raising false hopes; by bringing them into disrepute through your life and example; and by keeping honest and earnest laborers out of the field.

With due consideration,

Yours,

SAMUEL G. HOWE.

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† The Trustees of the Mississippi State Institution for the Education of the Blind, in one of their Reports, say: —

"We would respectfully request the repeal of the act approved Aug. 12th, 1864, for relief of Dempsey Sherrod, said act placing said Sherrod permanently in the Institution, and also his sister, a *young lady with full sight*, twenty years old, to be educated and boarded by the State, free of expense so long as he may choose to enter himself as a pupil.

We know of no reason for granting such special privileges to Mr. Sherrod, rather than to any other respectable blind person in the State.

Mr. Sherrod deserves great credit for his efforts in raising by subscription, &c., large sums of money, to print books for the Blind; but it has always been understood that he was well paid for his services as agent, by the Trustees of the fund so raised. If he has not been so paid, the Trustees should at once pay him a fair reward, out of funds now in their hands.

His claim for support is on the Trustees of the fund so raised, not on the State, which contributed very liberally to the fund, nor on the Institution for the Blind, *which has never received any benefit from said fund*, either directly or indirectly up to the present time.

Mr. Sherrod finished his education in this school many years ago. He has entered himself as a pupil, for the last five years. His sister has been educated in the Institution as a day pupil, two years, and for two years has been furnished with board and tuition, free of expense, making four years in all.

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— Personal —

New York 11 April 1870

Major Genl O. O. Howard
Bureau Ref. Freedm & A. Lands
Washington D.C.

My Dear Sir

Yours of the 7th inst was duly received, and I observe you had not enough in the "Freedmen & Refugee Fund" to meet the engagement of yours of the 21 January, but hoped to have it, before you would turn over the Bureau to another if Congress should pass the pending Bill. I also note you would write me again, soon —

I am indignant at the attack made upon you by Fernando Wood in the House, which I suppose he has been instigated to do by some of those who took so active a part in the Church difficulties some time ago — It is a great trial of faith to have our efforts to do good misrepresented, and our Characters maligned, especially by those who have once been our friends, & with whom we have taken sweet Counsel, act to the interests of the Kingdom of Christ Such however, appears to have been the experience of many of the Children of God from David's time to the present, including our blessed Savior, who was the most Conspicuous example, and assured us the servant was not above his master —

You have my deep sympathy in this trial, and I pray that God will turn "the Counsels of your enemies into foolishness", causing you to triumph over them, as I doubt not that he will —

Most Sincerely Yours

E. R. Robert

Personal.

Fort Pierce Feb. 13th 1910

Major Saml. E. Stevens
Bureau Adj. General U.S. Army
Washington D.C.

My Dear Sir

Some of the papers that you kindly received and I have
had sent me by the "Freedmen's Aid Society" need the support
of the Government but I hated to have it before you would have an
occasion to consider if Congress should pass the pending Bill. I do not
write as a young man.

Am indignant at the attack made upon Major Stevens
in those which I enclose to be been received in the Secretary's office
I left no notice of that in the Chief Adjutant's office some time ago.
I must trust of Faith to have our efforts to be good citizens and
character vindicated, especially by those who have been our friends.
Now we have taken sweet Counsel as to the interests of the Freedmen of Florida
and Bureau officers to have been the experience of many of the Citizens
that from Lincoln time to the present, including our Blessed Savior who
must Christians example, and assured as the Bureau officers have been
martyrs.

We have my deep sympathy in the trial, and pray that God will take
the Cause of your Faithful Fellowship. Assuring you I remain
your Friend as I would not that he will.

Most Sincerely Yours

[illegible]

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Clerk's Office H.R.U.S.

Washington D. C. April 11 1870

(Confidential)

Genl O. O Howard

As John C. Gerard a clerk in your bureau, please inform me by the bearer Mr Dolsen

T. A. Vanwyck

please also inform me on what recommendation he was appointed.

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House of Repr. Committee Room
Education & Labor, April 11, 1870

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard

Sir: I am instructed by Hon. S. M. Arnell, Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, to forward you the accompanying copy of the Rules adopted for conducting the investigation of the charges preferred against you by Hon. Fernando Wood, of New York, and to notify you that the investigation will be commenced, in the room of the Committee, on Wednesday, the 13th inst., at 10 A.M.

Respectfully,
A. F. Boyle
Clk to Committee

By order of
Hon. S. M. Arnell
Chairman

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Richmond, April 11, 1870.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard

SIR:

You are respectfully invited to attend the Celebration of the Adoption of the Fifteenth Constitutional Amendment, *to be held in this city, on the 20th instant.*

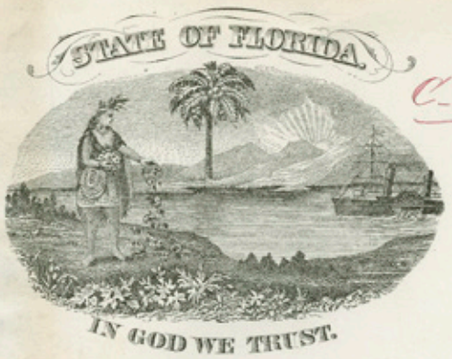
Please signify your acceptance of this invitation.

JNO. OLIVER, *Ch'n Com. Arrangem'ts.*
PETER WOODFOLK,
ALBERT BROOKS,
W. H. LESTER,
JAMES BURRELL,
E. V. CLARK.

LANDON BOYD, SEC'Y.

Private.

Genl. Howard.



Personal

C. 32. 2d 1. 1870

Executive Office,

Tallahassee, Fla. April 12th 1870

Dear General ~~Sir~~

I am anxious to serve you in any way in my power. I was on duty at Arlington (Freedmens Village) when you were first placed in charge of the Bureau of R.F. and A.L. and since that time I have done no other duty, than serving as an officer under you.

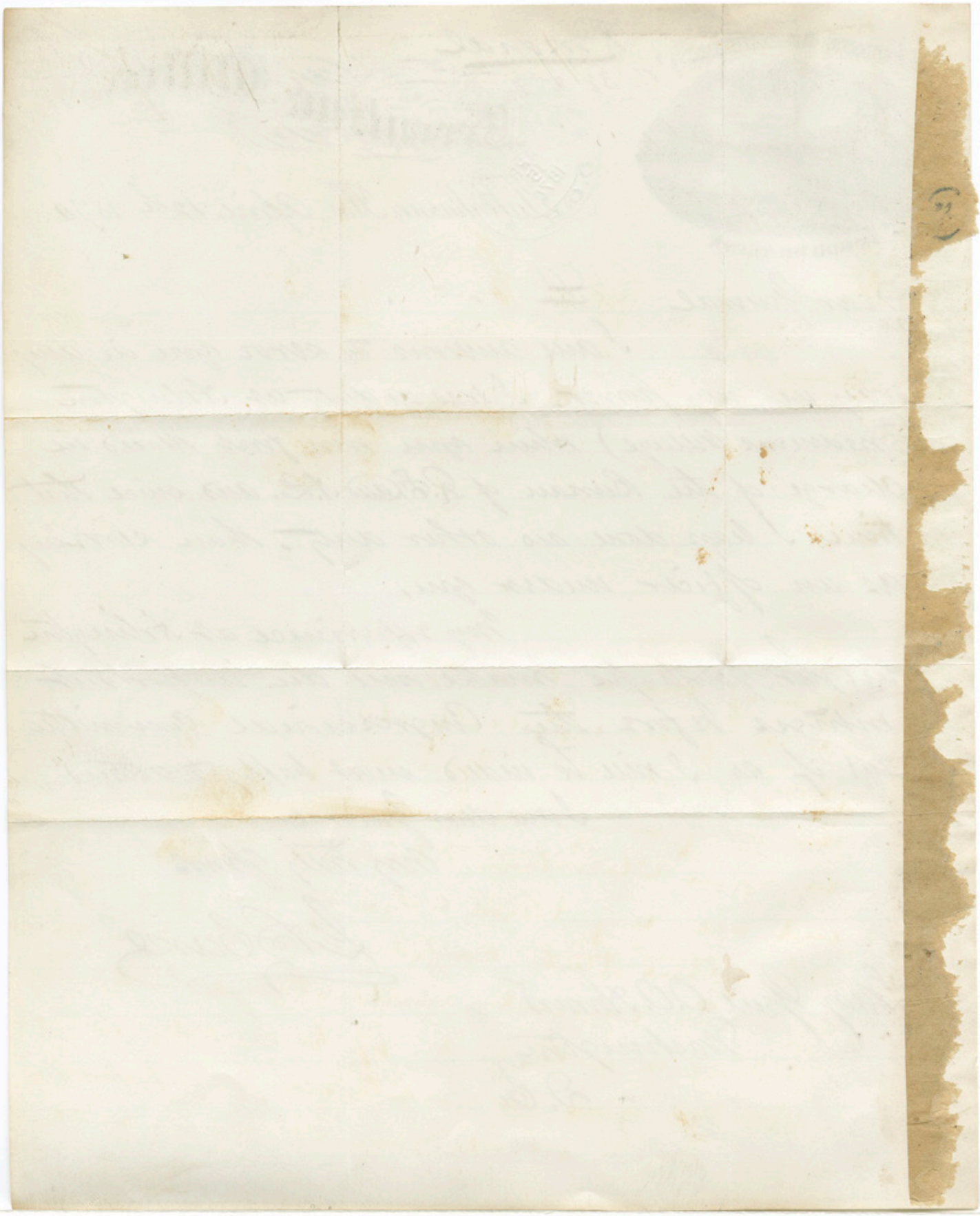
My experience at Arlington might perhaps make me an important witness before the Congressional Committee and if so I will be indeed most happy to attend

I am dear General

Very truly Yours

G. B. Carse

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



Genl Howard,
Chief of Freedman's Bureau,
Washington City
D.C.

B-52-Vol. 1-1870 (Va)

Richmond, April 12th 70.

Genl Howard.

Certain papers are about to be send to Hon Wm Wood - in reference to yourself & Brother, that if made public will materially affect your characters &c &c This information was reached through a servant, who I am induced to believe can obtain possession of them - for a trifling sum -

I shall of course be prudent enough to call no names - at present - and wait to hear from you on the subject - What is done must be done within five days - at most - let me hear from you by return mail -

Your friends -

"B - G - O - - - - -"

Richmond - P.O.

I give no to - no box - for prudential reasons -

Address - B.G.O.

Raleigh, N.C.
April 12th 1870

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard -
Dear General,

I was extremely pained to see the attack of Fernando Wood upon you in the House - It was a dastardly thing, but it will result in good to you, by enabling you to vindicate your integrity in office. Our Trustees and myself feel alike with regard to the matter - We can, I can, relieve you of one or two of the charges, and will, of course, gladly do whatever is necessary to do so - You may command me in any way. I have the fullest confidence in your Christian character and integrity and all my knowledge of you goes to ~~the~~ strengthen that confidence - Such a man as Wood cannot understand either your motives or acts, and, if he could, would blacken you for political purposes - I have known about your connexion with the

Fulton, Mo.
August 13th 1870

Mr. Geo. R. A. Hurst,
Dear Sir,

I was pleased
yesterday to see the effects of Thomson's
hand upon you in the Herald. It was
a decidedly telling, but not unkind one
and I hope it will bring you to realize
your situation. Our Presbytery
and synod feel kindly towards you
the world too. We can, I am sure, believe
you of such low, if not criminal,
character, yet we do not believe you
deny it. We see you announced to
preach every. I know the pulpit contains
no more illustrious character and talents
and all our sympathy of you goes to the
determination that confirmed. But I am
so have cannot unchristianize further you
brethren is sorry, and, if he could, would
therefore give to retrieve forgiveness.
Have heard what you announce and I

Barry farm from the beginning and understood your purposes - which were right and honorable. I know all the circumstances of the transfer of property in Washington to our School, and in it there was nothing that any person can utter profanity concerning.

I believe in you, and nothing that any one could say, would lead a good man, can shake my confidence.

God will sustain you and make your righteousness as clear as the noonday.

Make my kind regards to Miss Howard.

Let me hear from you, if it is only a line.

If I can be of any service in the investigation, I will cheerfully render it.

Yours faithfully
J. Bruce Smith

Washington, D. C.,
April 12th, 1870.

Gen. O. O. Howard

Sir. The Citizens' Committee of One Hundred and Fifty will meet at Union League Hall, 9th st., near E, on Wednesday evening, April 13th inst., at half-past seven o'clock, to hear the report of the Campaign and other sub-committees, and to transact other business that may come before the meeting. A full attendance is requested.

GEO. P. FISHER,
President.

Washington D.C.
Apr 12: 1870
Apr. 12

Maj Genl O. O. Howard USA
Washington DC

My Dear Friend -

I arrived in town last night having been summoned here by a telegram from a friend here who informs me that an effort is in progress to have me removed from ~~P.M.~~ the position of Post Master at Culpeper C.H. Va

I shall make an effort to see you before I leave town -

I learn that Mr McKenzie MC from 7th Dist of Va is the person who is urging the thing in behalf of a Gentleman by the name of Norris of Culpeper C.H. Va. He is not friendly to the present administration

I am confident to meet

over

any and all charges that may be brought against me.

Will you do me the kindness to either see the Postmaster General or drop him a line in my behalf—

The hostility to me who held positions under the B.R. F. & L. is what has prompted this whole movement.

I shall try to see Mr Blaine today.

I am Sir
Very truly &
Respectfully
Wm A Macrae
P.M.

(late) Bvt Capt &
Capt B.R. F. & L. at
Warrenton Va & Culpeper Va

43½

38 Lombard Block
Chicago April 12 '70

Rev. O. O. Howard

12, 1870

My dear Brother

Your kind letter giving me some idea of Maj. Eldridge's feelings and what he assumes in his mind as my wrong doings came today. I cared but feel pained and grieved that anything I had done or seemed to have done or said should reflect against the cause of personal religion, injure my own influence for good with any living soul and especially tend to disgrace the Christian name.

But I have never intentionally injured any person and did not know until now that Maj Eldridge thought so. I will make any reparation of wrong done, in my power. I felt grieved that Maj. Eldridge seemed (from his avoiding to speak with me) to cherish hard feelings of some kind but I did not know the exact nature of them.

I will take up each matter mentioned by you as they are in your jurisdiction officially. I was not consciously guilty of a single wrong action in any one of the instances named. You can show this to Maj. E. or not as you may see fit. I will write him a letter and endorse it, which you may present, if you will, in person.

As to a "promise" to retain him of course it is a matter of memory as to exact words used and I make no attempt to recollect. But I know I never promised any employee what I was conscious I had not the power to fulfill. He was mistaken in his understanding of me. I did not even promise myself that I would be retained. I gave him the place temporarily as an act of personal kindness and not that there were not many applicants. His act of approving an act which involved a loss to the Government and which I did not approve was only the occasion of his immediate discharge from Q. M. Gen. Office. Again out of feelings of sympathy for him & his family I secured

a place for him at the Hospital. I did this with considerable difficulty getting the ill will of others who thought Eldridge was preferred to them."

As to "insulting manner" of accusing him I do not remember anything of the kind and would have been sorry the next moment if in a burst of impatience I uttered an unkind word. In the worry of those times when I was particularly displeased at the act referred to I might have spoken with harshness. I used often to feel sorry for impatience which I knew was wrong in my official life at Washington.

I never "charged him with bribery". If I could have proved it the charge would have been preferred to law. Some person must have poisoned his mind in to this thought; for I never believed he was bribed. I might have had a suspicious thought when I found (clerks) then in my own office had proved untrustworthy. Sometimes I used to think almost no one was to be trusted.

"Prevented him from drawing mileage" – Here he is mistaken. The transaction I well remember.

He desired to go West with a lot of some seven (7) freedmen - There was no other business but to accompany them and other Agents were ready to go. The Officers fees mileage - I found his going if enough were secured to warrant going - as he desired to bring back his family - Finally an order was issued (but not very cheerfully) from our office and he was merely allowed expenses - He ~~wished~~ asked me to go to the Adjutant General & ~~the~~ request for him mileage - ~~My wish~~ I did so but in vain - but doubtless he (Eldridge) thought I might have secured mile- age for him - I felt some doubt whether I ought to ~~urge~~ urge the matter in as much as any agent could do the business. But I was prompted by no unkind feeling towards El- dridge. ——— As to my drawing mileage I never had anything to do or say about the orders - I was entitled to mileage & the orders always gave it me - I believe Eldridge's appointment was as an Agent at $85 per mo. though I am not pos- itive - I was always a returned officer until last June when I was discharged disappointed an Agent -

As to going to Maine I re-

quested the order to accompany 40 freedpeople to Brownsville where was a flute-quarry & where I hoped to find homes for a large number from the representations of the owner. I was always glad I went on personally because I did not find the homes such as to warrant sending more. I also had a duty of Conscience to provide for the discontinuance of that school - and to look up certain alleged sufferings of Freedmen en route. I never made a trip more fraught with good to the people whom I was trying to benefit. I believe I spent one day (Sunday) with my wife. - As to horses I used the Headquarters team both for public & private purposes - mingling often my business with my pleasure rides as you are well aware - taking my family to Boxy Farm &c when I had occasion to go - I did not go beyond the practice of all other General Officers I have known. I generally had one or two private horses & used them more or less constantly in the public service - At one time (to which Maj. E. re-)

fers I suppose) I had a private horse at work a part of the time at the Brick Mill - I had my forage for private horses the same as any officer - I made any certificate to a false account. The fact that I was using the public horses did not prevent my drawing for my own. The public horses were forged by the Quarter Master - I afterwards bought one of the teams and commonly but before that they were fed by Qr. Mr. as public animals without any certificate of mine.

My conscience is clear about the use of horses & certificates - no man can show me any false statement of mine for I never made any.

I take your letter & could I have had a fair opportunity of interview would gladly have explained all I could & wherein I have wronged Maj. Eldridge, if shown to me, set it right - I think only the kindest feelings towards him & his family and could say no more if I knew I was to stand before the Eternal Judgement bought -

Truly & affectionately Your Brother

[illegible]

Boston.
Apl 13. 1870

Gen. O. O. Howard.

Dear Brother.

I am sorry not to come on & be at the Installation of Bro Rankin, but I think I must go to Chicago, the week following & I do not see how it is possible to be absent two weeks. I shall be with you in spirit.

I am not in the least surprised to see Wood's charges against you. I know no man who has been trusted with such unlimited moneys as yourself. Any

corrupt man wd feel sure that you must make a selfish & unlawful use of them. He cannot conceive of any other result of such opportunities.

But I do not expect that even the smell of fire will be found on yr garments. Nor will the people suspect you, or fall back from you.

I shd like to stand by you, were it necessary, in any way & in all ways.

This may be all what is necessary to bring out what you have done, what an unlimited confidence has been placed in you & how faithfully you have met the hour —

I predict for you a higher victory than any in the March fr Atlanta to the Sea.

My love to Mrs. H— & believe me cordially & fraternally yrs

E. D. Webb.

Apl. 13th 1870

file

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Washington, D.C.,
Apl. 13th, 1870.

Dear General:

We have a fine morning, on which to begin your visits to the Committee. We are all full of sympathy for you, & of prayer for your success & complete vindication. Meanwhile, I want to transcribe some of the words that came from some of our delegates. Dr. Betts, who will not be here, says: "I should like to take Gen. Howard by the hand, & say to him, "Your de-

traitors are liars, I believe."

A lawyer in Boston, who will be here as delegate writes: "Gen Howard has the sympathies of all good people here. We hope & believe that he will come from the furnace, without so much as the smell of fire upon him."

May God of Jacob shield you, as in the day of battle, is the wish & prayer of

Your affectionate Pastor,

J. C. Rankin

A. 14. Vol. 1. 1870

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Office of R. H. FOLGER,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Massillon, Ohio, Apl 13 1870

Genl O. O. Howard
Washington Dist Col

The colored residents of this and the neighboring cities, design celebrating the passage of the 15th Amendment, or rather its adoption as a part of the Constitution of the U.S. on Saturday the 23d

I beg to request your attendance on that occasion and participation in its festivities in such manner as shall be most agreeable to yourself

Very respectfully Obdt Svt
R. H. Folger
Corresponding Secy

Page Revenue

"What will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

D. 21. Vol. 1. 1870

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Rooms of Young Men's Christian Association,

Indianapolis, Apl 13th, 1870.

Genl O O Howard.
Washington.

Dear Sir.

You are probably aware that the next Convention of the Y. M. C. Assn. meets in our City during the 4th week in June.

We are very anxious to have you present with us on that great occasion and would extend to you a very cordial invitation to come.

An early answer would greatly oblige

Your very Resly
John Dixon
Chm

Howard Notes

April 13, 1870

Maj. Gen. Howard

Sir: Every member of the Com. on Education & Labor rec'd a package of books from your bureau, this morning, except Hon. Legrand W. Perce, of Miss., owing probably to the fact that his name does not appear in the Congressional Directory.

Will you be kind enough to see that a similar package is sent to him by to-morrow morning.

Respectfully A. F. Boyle Clk to Com.

L. 14. Vol. 1. 1870 8

[ca-April 13, 1870]

Washington City, D. C.

Genl O. O. Howard

The pleasure of your company is respectfully solicited, on Thursday Evening, April 14, at 8 o'clock, at the private residence, No. 374, cor. 10th street and Massachusetts Avenue, to partake of a glass of wine, and to witness a Dramatic Reading by a distinguished Amateur, who is anxious to exhibit his powers to a few friends, preparatory to a Public Exhibition in behalf of the Orphans of this city.

Respectfully,

W. S. Huntington, Esq., Cashier 1st Nat. Bank. R. B. Lloyd, Jr.

Hon. James S. Negley, M. C.

Hon. M. C. Hamilton. John Van Riswick, Esq.

Hon. S. L. Hoge. Hon. John Taffe.