United States Internal Revenue,

Deputy Collector's Office, 3d District, Texas.

Waco, Dec. 21st 1873

Gen. O. O. Howard, Washington,

Dear Cousin,

I have received your letter and am much obliged to you for your kind interest in your Texas cousin. I learn that grave charges have been sent to the Department against Mr Taylor, Coll. 5th Dist. Tex, and he will undoubtedly be removed. If you will call on Senators Flanagan & Hamilton of Texas & Senator Morton of Ind., to whom I think I have been spoken of by Col Brigham, I think they will concur with you in recommending me to the position. Perhaps I am calling upon you to take too much trouble in my behalf, but I rely upon your proverbial kindness to me

Your off cousin

Will

PS. My regard to all your family.

Wash. Dec. 21st 1873.

Will

Desires the Gen. to assist Taylor in reclaiming his position

No. .....

Deputy Collector of Internal Revenue,

3d DISTRICT, TEXAS.

Dated, ..., 18

IN RELATION TO

Recd JAN 8 1874 by Genl.

No. of Enclosures, ...

Yountville, Napa Co., Cal.,
Dec. 22, 1873.
Gen. O. O. Howard, U.S.A.,
Washington, D.C.

My dear Brother,

Allow me to say that your "case" which I have watched for years, reminds me in some respects of my own. The same persistency of persecution, and from the same evil and corrupt sources, marks the one or the other.

All the bad elements in and out of the Army characterize your slanderers and foes, the same

as [illegible] I wrote
you in 1868-9, of
my troubles in Ari-
zona; and again
from Oregon in 1870
-71. As to this mo-
ment, I find no
redress. While too
ill to know what
I did, Dec. 24, 1868, I
wrote Secy of War
a letter setting forth
my sufferings from
the "Ky. clan", and this
they called my resig-
nation!

Hon. J. W. Nesmith
M.C., of the Mil. com.
is a native of Maine,
and knows my case
quite well. He is dis-
posed to do justly, as

I think and I am most anxious for investigation, as you too are. The Secy. does say this will restore me! which is not what the enemy desire

Senator Sargent has the "case" in hand. I hope the honor of the Army will be vindicated by the most thorough canvass of all such cases.

And when the "Jesuits" cease to control the policy and politics of our Government as they by & by will cease - then we may expect justice & right

to trium Ph! How long will it be ere this is so?

Please present to me very kindly your family whom I said sightly years ago, when to Rev. E. P. Smith, the Hon. Comm. and Hon. Jno. Eaton with whom served in 1861.

Yours devotedly,

Chas. M. Blake,
Lieut. U. S. N.

Mobile Dec 21, 1873

P. S. Rev. Jos. H. Warren who spent the night with me sends you his kind regards — he says you know my kinsman Rev. Wm. L. Jones of Berwick.

If you can render me any aid in this, I trust you will do so. My Uncle Thos. Bell Esq. there has not written me since Oct.

C. M. B.

Harlem Monday a.m.
Dec 22nd 1872

Dear General I dont want to trouble you with needless correspondence but beg to ask two or three questions as a loving friend and writer in the past. 1. ~~Do~~ Are not the present charges upon matters now, and different from the old ones? 2 are they not upon matters which not yourself personally but subordinates were employed? 3. Has the Sec. of. had the aid of the former enemy in the present movement? 4. Do you defend personally or with counsel present in court? Now if you have no time to answer turn up this. If otherwise make it as short as this if you please. I never leave home now, – on account of my wife's health I mean, her weakness – or I would have come down and asked these ques.

time in person. I feel anxious you should have a skilful lawyer because much will depend on that

Pray pardon this and if not, silly answer.

Truthfully your friend

Edgar Ketchum

Harlem –

Dec 22 1873.

Ketchum Edgar –

Desires the best to answer the question herein asked.

Geo O. O. Hamm

War Department
Washington City,
December 24th 1873

General O. O. Howard,
late Commissioner Bureau R. F. & A. L.,
Howard University,
Washington D. C.

General:

Referring to the letter of the 23rd instant, from George W. Ballock, late Disbursing Officer, delivered by you to me the same date, in which it is stated: "that at the proper time and before the proper tribunal I [he] can explain any discrepancy that may appear to exist in my [his]

Treasury Balances," - you are respectfully informed, that the accounting officers of the Treasury and the Treasurer of the United States, are the proper officials to be consulted, in order to explanation.

Viewing it under the laws - particularly the Act of March 29. 1867, War Dept. G. O. 53 of 1867 - to be your duty to exert yourself to the utmost in regard to the most important subject now under consideration, I hereby direct you to place yourself in communication with the Treasurer

and Accounting officers, so that, through them, and in connection with the retained accounts of late Disbursing Officer Balloch, explanations, if any, may be submitted to me at the earliest practicable date - not later than the 31st instant.

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. W. Belknap
Secretary of War.

War Dept. Dec 24 73

W. W. Belknap
Sec. of War.

Refers to letter of Gen. H. Bulloch in regard to explaining discrepancies but directs Gen Howard to explain.

Personal

South Bend Ind
Dec 24. 1873.

My dear Sir,

Either you forgot to send me the copy of the address you tried me on your postal card, copy to be sent, or it has miscarried in the mail. For it has not arrived here. Please send me another copy.

— I intended, in my reply to your first letter, to tell you that, to every one I converse with, I express my fullest faith in your brother's triumphant vindication from all aspersions. The very most, I am certain, will be that something may be framed against his subordinates, exactly as was against Gen Shimmer's, whose integrity was not thereby impugned by any one.

Gen. O. O. Howard
Dear Brother; I
thought you would like
to see the enclosed letter,
Mr Hunt's and your
signature were the
only ones before I put the
heavy letter in the
envelope to the "Press"
though the "good voice
of every man" — every
market fully filled in
your Exposition —
and Gen Sherman
had thought you were
a brother worth having
to be proud of — so I
felt sure you would
be pleased with the
letter.

Hoping that your
health is good, I
remain
Your affectionate
brother
O. O. Howard

Answ DEC 31 1873

How keenly she feels these cruel & persistent attacks I can well imagine. But I am confident that she will triumph over all of them.

It is indeed an era of personal defamation. Saying nothing of myself, tho' the evidence since Congress adjourned of which I knew nothing last winter, proves how unfaithful it was that I should ever have seen that check in its progress, see how the civilized world was filled with aspersions of Mrs. E. Dodge until at last all the facts proved how shamefully she had been sinned against. But I will not be betrayed into enlarging on this point. I am out of public life, & rejoiced that I am. And with the appetite to believe every thing wicked & vile that may be charged against public men I can imagine no inducement that would lead me back into it in any capacity.

Yours truly

S. Wright Cole

Genl. H. Havard

Franked Letter

Edward Dodge

Washington D.C.

Collected from Mail

Stamp

Washington D.C.
Dec. 24th 1873

Hon. W. W. Belknap
Secretary of War

Sir:

I have the honor to request the tabular statement, or a copy of it, shown me last Monday at your office. This will enable me to obtain a statement of the facts from General Ballock and also as you desired put myself in communication with the treasury officials. I do not remember that the tabular statement was signed. Was it from the U.S. Treasurer? I shall make all possible haste to comply with your instructions. Very Respectfully
Your obdt. Servt.
O. O. Howard
Brig. Gen. U.S.A.

Washington D.C.
Dec. 24/1873

O. O. Howard
Requests tabular statement of the state of the War. Dep. order to secure facts from Gen. Ballock, and co agreed.

Washington D.C.
Dec. 26 1873

The original of the within was furnished by me to the Sec. of War.
He initially declined to accept my report & I had to resume & reply in writing.
C. Delaware
Brig. Genl.
Hon. Rice T. his
Maine Chairman
pressing

Oxford N.J.
Dec 25th 1873

Genl O. O. Howard
Washington D.C

~~We have n~~ Genl. As
we have no Course of lectures
here this winter. we wish to know
what will be your lowest figures
to come here & deliver your
lecture on the "Battle field of
Gettysburgh" for as there are
only two of us interested in this
undertaking we would like you to
put your price as liberal
as possible we will take all
the chances as to the House
&c &c. Very Truly

H. V. S. Collier M.D.

War Department

Washington City,

December 26 1873.

General O. O. Howard, U. S. A.

Late Com'r. Bureau R. F. & A. L.

Howard University.

Washington, D. C.

General:

Referring to your communication of this date, requesting "the tabular statement or a copy of it shown to me [you] last Monday, to enable me [you] to obtain a statement of the facts from General Balloch", I reply that for the purpose indicated it is not necessary that I should comply with your request, for the reason that by calling at the offices of the Second and Third Auditors

you can gain access to the accounts of General Balloch from which were furnished to this Department, the figures, certified by disbursing officer Balloch, showing the amounts on deposit in the Treasury of the United States and other depositories. In a similar way, by calling at the office of the Treasurer of the United States you can obtain the figures, as reported to this Department, showing the amounts actually on deposit to the credit of the disbursing officer.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant

Wm. W. Belknap

Secretary of War.

302

Dec 26
1873.

Gen Howard

Dear Sir:—

There will be a meeting of the Trustees of the University at Prof Barber's office tomorrow P.M. at 1 o'clock. It is very necessary that you be present and have there my letter addressed to the Board today, if convenient, to you. I am so situated that I could see you and converse with you in regard to such matters as you would bring to my attention.

Yours &c

J M Langston

Gen Howard

Milford Mass Dec 26th 73

My dear Cousin

I have been thinking so much of you & yours since the publication of the Sec of war's letter & should have written you had I not been sick for the past two weeks with a cold which settled on my lungs & kept me in bed 10 days. I hope to be out in a few days now. I am surprised at that letter what was the object. There was no charge in it that you can be held responsible for and still many of the papers call you every thing bad & none of them that I have seen have published any thing in your defence but most of them (that I have seen) condemn you

note & tell me what I ought to say in the course of this new persecution. I understand the bounty business also about Rankle & the others but I do not understand about the $131000 retained bounty fund & the last vouchers. Your note will be considered confidential of course my only object is to be able to defend you advisedly & I can do it where it will tell. My Lizzie is very well & joins me in much love to you Lizzie & the children. Have you not got a baby Girl? if so what is her name. I have not heard from a relative for many months did not even know that Rutland was missed until two weeks ago. Lewis & family are well. we spent a few days with her when we came here.

on the strength of the letter
what makes the Sec. pitch
into you so hard did your
letter last year make Vincent
mad. (I was sorry you wrote it) I
have been down to the sea shore
for the last 18 months & have
been out of the way of knowing
what caused this fight of the
War Dept. I am asked repeatedly
what it means and I explain
the way the Bounties was paid
& what was done by you to
punish & prevent fraud &
try to show why you cannot be
held responsible for the actions
of your subordinates. I am
glad that you have kept quiet
do not write a single letter
that can get into print over
your own signature. wait
and when your friends find
or see what is best to be
done let them do it. I hope
Lizzie will not feel this
new trouble too much. I wish
I could be of some service
to you, my heart goes out
to you full of sympathy
and knowing of your entire
innocence of anything out
of the way in any way shape or
manner. Your letter to the
Chairman of the Mil. Committee
was just the thing It was
published in the Army & Navy
Journal of last week. I have
not seen it in any other paper
I am going to Boston next
week & shall meet many of
your personal friends besides
others of some influence who feel
a deep interest in you they
will want to be informed just
how the matter is. and if you
can find time drop me a

write me care Messrs
William Tabbot & Co No
8 Central Wharf Boston
Mass. I shall be there
(in Bs) until the 20th of July
Yours affectionately Lorain
Perry

Milford Mass Dec 5th 73.

Perry

A Friendly letter

Ans Dec 29. 1873.

Auburn Maine Dec 26. 1873

Gen O. O. Howard

Washington D.C

My Dear Brother

I know you will pardon me, a comparative stranger, whom you may have forgotten, for intruding myself upon your attention, but I can hardly resist penning a few lines of sympathy which has followed you in all your fortunes since my first acquaintance with you. We all feel that you deserve our warmest sympathy, and prayers, amid the calumnies which have been heaped upon you by the enemies of the oppressed. And as these have from time to time come to our ears, the involuntary prayer has gone up to our common Father to sustain, cheer and comfort your heart. Let me assure you Dear Br. that amidst all these seven trials, by the foes of religion, and may I not say of humanity who have seemed to seek for opportunities to injure your fair fame, and christian manhood, we have never for a moment lost our confidence in you, or the belief that you would

emerge from them all triumphantly. We had fondly hoped that the ~~words~~ mouth of the traduce had been sealed. But now that it has seen fit to come from another source, have we cease confidence in your entire vindication but believe you will triumph in another struggle, as you have always in the past and stand forth before your country and the Christian Church which is watching you with such tender interest, with your truth and Christian manhood untarnished. It is painful to see so often in the public press, which does so much to shape public opinion, thrusts at "Christian Statesmen" though they were sinners above all others. But we believe that God will cause even this "wrath of man to praise him" - and the cloud which sometimes seems to rest on his chosen ones, will but be the harbinger of a brighter day. We thank God that he has given you such a spirit to meet these trials. I can assure you that the Church of which you were once an honored member, stands with me in the feeling, I have expressed and that you have her prayers, that God will overrule all these things for his own Glory and your own advancement in the divine life.

It may interest you to know that the Heights Church is prospering finely under the labors of our new pastor. Rev A.P. Tinker a graduate of "Yale" and "Andover" - He was installed in Oct last and has proved even better than our hopes.

Please say to those dear children whom I so well remember as members of our S.S. that I often think of them as I stand before the school, and I pray God that in early life they may love and serve their Father's God & Savior -

Mrs Cobb unites with me in her kindest regards to yourself and Mrs Howard. Again commending you to our common Father, praying that He will give you grace to bear all these trials, and at last bring us all home where "there shall be no more sorrow, nor crying, nor any more pain" I subscribe myself

Your's Fraternally

Wm F. Cobb

Auburn, Me
Dec. 26-73

Cobb Jno. T.

Friendly letter

Ans JAN 8 1874

MERRELL & COLEMAN,
NURSERYMEN,
FRUIT AND ORNAMENTAL TREES, SHRUBS, ROSES, &c.
Choice GRAPE VINES: Croton, Eumelan, Walter, Martha, Rogers' Hybrids, &c.; also, Small Fruits.
OFFICE ON LEWIS STREET, NEAR MAIN.

A. MERRELL, M.D. }
WM. H. COLEMAN. }

Geneva, N.Y. Dec. 26th 1873.

My dear General Schenck,

While so many are siding with your accusers & the press is assailing you with its bitter insinuations, I want to express to you my christian sympathy & my abiding confidence.

Whatever may have been the sins committed in your department, I believe that the investigation will prove you wholly free from any moral taint or complicity therein.

Trusting that the sincerity of these expressions may so outweigh the obscurity of their origin, as to afford you some little comfort

J. Brennan

[illegible]

Very respectfully yours

A. Merrell

Geneva, N.Y.

Dec 26th 73.

Merrell A.

Does not side with the accusers Ansd. Dec. 29. 1873.

Washington D.C. Dec 26th 1873

General O. O. Howard U.S.A.
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

In conversation with you a few evenings ago, you asked me, if I could explain the reason for the difference between the amount Genl Ballock reported in his Account Current as in the U.S. Treasury, and the amount actually there. I told you at the time that I could do that very easily, and remarked what I thought caused any great difference. Since then I have examined several of the Accounts Current to see if I was correct in my statements to you & find I was in the general.

The following are the reasons. When the certificates were recd. from the Auditor they were

taken up on General Ballock's Books as Cash. As these accumulated they were signed and sent to the Pay Master, after examination (I suppose in that Department) a check was sent Genl. Ballock, for the amount, on the Asst. Treas. at New York or the Sub. Treasurer, and by him at once deposited at the place on which it was drawn. Some times the certificates sent to the Pay Master we would receive no check for, for some time. I think much of the time they owed us $150,000. to 400,000. In making up the Account Current at the end of a Month the Clerk having that in charge would come to me, and laying his account Current before me, say, "Where is the Balance due the United States deposited?" Keeping a statement of daily balances with all the Depositories where Genl Ballock had funds, except the U.S. Treasury; I

would give him the amount in each of the places, the certificates on hand he took from his own records & the balance I told him to put in the U.S. Treasury: The Certificates in the hands of the Pay Master, money in hands of Agents and disbursing officers, where checks were sent with vouchers, and partial payments on Contracts were included in this amount.

You may wonder why he (Genl. B.) kept no daily statement of amount with the U.S. Treas. but that is easily explained when I inform you, that we only kept a daily statement with the other depositaries to prevent over drawing and we were sure that there would be a large balance at all times in the U.S. Treas.

You know the relation I sustained to Genl. Ballock from Aug 1st 1865 when I entered his office until my discharge by the Secy of War on

the 20th of June 1872, that of Confidential Clerk. I dont think a check was drawn by him or in his office, but what I know of. I took but few furloughs and after my return from them had to check off the different Bank acts so I would have been likely to notice any unusual check and have at once inquired about the same. I am happy to say I never discovered such ck and never had any suspicion aroused but what the matter was satisfactorily explained.

Very Respectfully
Your obt Servant
(Copy) E A Perry.

[redacted] D.C.
Dec. 26. 1873.

Ferry, S. A.

Concerning the alleged discrepancies between Genl. Ballock's accounts current and the U. S. Treasurer's statements.