

War Department,
Adjutant General's Office,

21

Washington, D. C., April 8th 1874

The enclosed letter is respectfully forwarded to General Vincent: it is thought to be of a private nature - and concerns General Howard alone.

The paper was found while examining and arranging the records of this office.

Jas McMillan
Capt 3^d Art
Chief D. O.

Mr. G. W. Miller

Adj'tant General, U.S.A.

Washington, D.C.,

Respectfully transmitted
to General O.O. Howard.
The letter is of
a personal character,
and in no way con-
nected with the
official records.

Thos. M. Gage

April 9. '74

Athens Tenn April 7 1874
Gen O.O. Howard

Dear Sir

Yours of the 3^d inst is in hand. You have my thanks for the copy of an anonymous letter, which, it seems, has become of some interest in your trial, now pending. Of that letter I knew nothing till I heard of it through you. I can hardly believe that any one could be so weak and at the sometime so ineffably mean and wicked as to attempt by a disguised personage to lead Gen. Sherman or any other man to conclude that the same person wrote both that anonymous mimic and the letter of Dec. 22. 1873 bearing my signature and addressed to the Secretary of War.

May not the resemblance in handwriting be often all accidental rather than a thing of studied design?

For the honor of our common humanity I could sincerely wish it were so.

But as your letter seems to assume that if that letter were not the product of my pen, it must have been a studied and not badly executed counterfeit of my hand and style; I will crave your indulgence while I set myself right before yourself, and, if you so decide, before the court.

No one knowing me would, I am sure, have suspected me as the author of such a production. But granting what is true—that I am personally unknown to all connected with the investigation, it would still seem as if the probabilities pointed any where rather than to me. In my letter of Dec. 22 I did not deal in generalities but called the attention of Government to a specific case, giving names, dates and occurrences with all needed particularity. I charged that in June 1867 a College, in this town, through you,

as head of the Freedmen's Bureau, obtained \$ 3000 of the nation's money upon the express condition that said fund "should be used forever for the education of Refugees & Freedmen" and that while, according to the terms of the contract, these wards of our nation were to receive the benefit of the fund through a "Normal Department" no such Department had ever as yet existed in the University. By putting the charge upon record I made myself responsible for it. The charge bore with some weight upon yourself but with far greater severity upon the Conference of Holstein (of the U. S. Church North) having entire control of the University. My name was signed to that letter and the letter was sent through a Kinsman J. W. Nemith M. D. to the Secretary of War. — Was this like the work of a dastardly coward, shunning responsibility for his acts? Completing the reading of the letter I exclaimed "Willing to drown yet afraid to strike". Of sweeping charges my letter contained none. The little fraction of the U. S. Church managing the University near me I did aver for the abuse of a trust but I brought no railing accusation against the denomination at large, which, indeed I highly respect. The criticism upon your course was not that you had granted funds to the institution but that you had failed to compel the Trustees to execute their trust or return the fund to the Treasury of the U. S. — But look at the wholesale denunciation of the anonymous writer. "One Whipple and one Stetley, Howard's brother and Smith" are the persons charged with every conceivable atrocity in the line of stealing. In league with others they "worked in all manner of ways undehended, to get money on false pretences". — The whole letter seems to me but the concentrated essence of unenomed hate. The whole Congregational body with the many in other denominations who aid the Am. Miss. Association are held up before us fit only for the pen-

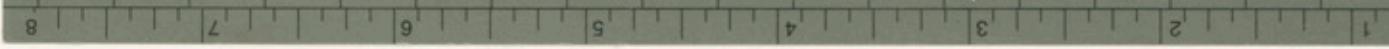
itentary or the whipping post. What does all this mean? Are the ~~Jesuits~~ at work running, or attempting to control, our nation's affairs? To denounce as unmitigated scoundrels the entire membership of a large denomination of Christians is something new under the sun. The scribbler has over done his work with a witness. — The people of this land intend to hold their public servants to a rigid accountability, yet when they hear this sort of indiscriminate abuse they will know what to make of it. The more he censures the more will they be inclined to read his censure backward into praise. It is singular that there is not one word in the letter which even hints that Gen. Howard ever perpetrated an intentional wrong. — he was simply "cheated". But those "Reverend Sectarians" he would fight with fire. — He would have "Gen Sherman act wisely & search with all possible scrutiny into every grant of money made to the Am. Miss. Association! Now all this is evidently a trick to divert attention from persons whose record will not bear examination. — Intelligent people know very well that the Association was only one of several denominations that received money in trust for the class of persons for whose welfare the Bureau was instituted. No man who has any reputation for intelligence believes that the comparatively small sums granted to the schools at such places as Atlanta, Talladega, Montgomery and Nashville have been used for sectarian instead of educational purposes. Those institutions during their brief term have made for themselves an enviable history — a history which not to know would argue ones self unknown. I was never a Congregationalist — never expect to be — never gave a cent to the Am. Miss. As. and never expect to give to it; yet with all earnestness let me say that no sane man could write about that body as has this scribbler unless either very weak or very wicked. If he was ig-

norant of current history we can afford to pity him as he put himself forward as adviser of the Court, but if sane, and aware of the facts, then may we well exclaim "O for a law to snare the villain's neck". Could this charge with the facts of the case go together before the American people one result would be an immense addition to the resources of the Association, and a greatly increased list of friends. After a residence^{now} of seven years and some experience in war times as agent of the Freedmen's Commission it is given as my deliberate opinion that the Fisk University at Nashville has, since it was "turned over" by Government in 1866 to the Association, accomplished more for the elevation of colored race than would a half-million of dollars expended for them in accordance with the letter of our State constitution and the spirit of the dominant race on our territory.

I trust the Court will go to the bottom of things, suffer who may. You are not the only one on trial - so is man who accepts of a share in the management of our public affairs. If Government fail to correct a wrong pointed out to them, then, so much the worse for the Government.

Yours with due respect
David M. Wilson

W/ letter #21



Athens Penn. April 9th 1874

Gen. A. A. Howard

Dear Sir

Yours of the 3^d inst in view
hence. You bear my thanks for the copy of an anonymous letter which it seems has become of some interest
in your trial, now pending. Of that letter I know
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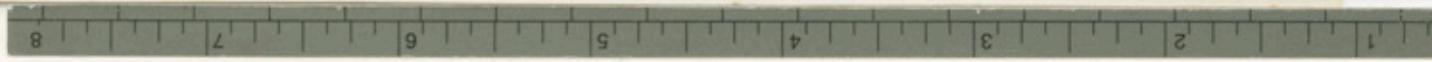
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Yours with due respect
(signed) David M. Wilson

A true copy
MC Wilkinson
Kings 3rd Draft.
d.m.w.

w/ letter # 21



Original
Official Copy of
Letter of
David M. Wilson
U. S. Attorney Penn.
April 7. 74

Washington, D.C., April 10/74

Gen. O.O. Howard.

Dear General:-

Will you be so good
as to go to Mr. Nicholas Gallaudet and
sign three deeds when you come down
to-morrow morning?

I wonder if the Secretary of War
is not sick of "mari's" nests. Will he
be able to cover his shame and con-
fusion by the claim that a conse-
cutive discharge of duty required
what he has done? I have
shared your feeling that his course,
though so despicable, was fortunate
for you. I pray and believe that this
will so completely confound your slander-
ers that very shame will forever close their mouths.

Very sincerely yours
N. E. Robinson

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Board of Public Works,

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DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Office Superintendent Streets, Avenues, and Alleys,

Washington, D. C., April 11th 1874

Gen. O. O. Howard

Sir

Your letter of March 19th 1873.

Enclosing Copy of letter of Hon. Secretary
of War. Calling for Report relative to the
alleged defalcation of St. Clair Mandeville
late Agent at New-Orleans was received in due
time. I can add nothing to the report as
made to Hon W. L. Kellogg Feb. 18th 1870. None
of the Books of Mr Mandeville ever came
into my possession. Mr Samuelt his
successor, did at one time send me a
transcript of his Record, and a Cash Book
on Sheets of paper. These, I left at the Bureau
when relieved. I think they were left in Mr
Drew's room. I would suggest that those
particular Books may be in the possession
of the U. S. District Atty at New-Orleans
or whomever has charge of the suit against
(over)

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Board of Public Works,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Office Superintendent Streets, Avenues, and Alleys,

Washington, D. C.,

187

his secretary. I wrote Col E.C. Remond who
was for a long time Agent at New-Orleans
and his letter is enclosed. I have also
written Mr Col. Seaman (who succeeded
Mandeville) - several times for him to fur-
nish me a list of the claimants he paid
out of the money found in Mandeville's
Safe, and turned over to him by Gen. Moreau
but up to this time have had no reply
giving the information. This accounts
for my delay in answering your letter.

Very Respectfully

J. M. Ballou
Late Chf. S. O.

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Allegan Michigan March 25th 1875

Genl. Grant Ballot
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

In reply to yours of the 20th, I have the honor to state: that sometime in the summer of 1868, I paid Mr P.H. Morgan of New Orleans, between two and three hundred dollars, for professional services and court fees, in the suit against the parties of St. Clair Mansfield.

Sometime in 1869 I received a letter from the Commissioner of the Bureau, directing me to call on Judge Morgan, and ascertain from him the exact condition of the suit; and stating also, that it was not considered best to incur further expense, unless there was reason to believe that judgement could be obtained against the parties.

I called on Mr Morgan, and was informed by him that every thing was progressing favorably; that the case would be taken up in the regular order, and would probably be reached before long; and that he entertained no doubt of obtaining judgement, and in the end recovering from the parties the amount of the defalcation.

I called upon him afterwards in relation to this matter, and was told that the case had not been reached.

He was afterward appointed U.S. District Attorney; and while acting

in that capacity I called his attention to the matter, and was again told that the case had not been reached.

He afterwards resigned, and I have not spoken to him on the subject since, and cannot tell what condition the case is in when I left the Bureau (in April 1872.)

I have heard the opinion expressed within the last two years that the sumis of Mandeville were not solvent; and that even if they were, it would be difficult to obtain judgement against them from the fact that immediately upon the death of Mandeville, his safe was taken possession of by Genl. Mower, and opened by him in company with Capt. De Grasse and Dr. Avery.

I know nothing of the condition of Mandeville's affairs at the time of his death. Further than general rumor.

I assumed the duties of Deputy Agent in March 1869, and served in that capacity until April 1873; and during that time, but few whose names appeared on the books as having been paid by Mandeville ever appeared to claim their bounty. Of those who did appear, some were persistent in denying that they had ever been paid, others not so much so. I have often thought that some who had been paid, had joined the general hue and cry, thinking the unsettled condition of Mandeville's affairs, and the suspense attaching thereto, afforded an opportunity to get their bounty a second time.

Yours truly,
Edgar C. Deman

w/ letter # 19

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32 Remondian Square.
Boston. April 11th 1874.

Dear General.

I am a candidate for
a municipal Judgeship in that
part of Boston known as the
Brighton District.

Now I am properly endorsed
by many leading members of
the Boston Bar.

Gov. Washburn was in Congress
many years and you undoubtedly
became ~~so~~ acquainted with him.

If so I think a letter from
you endorsing me generally to
my character stand in the
Army with you would be of
great help to me.

An open letter sent to me
is what I desire.

I hardly expect to get the
place as there are several
applicants but it would hurt
me to be beaten.

By the way, I told the
story of the visit to Gochisi
to a large audience last

Thursday evening and am ¹⁵
debut it again won.

very hilly country

^{9 ms} ~~sketch~~ Fred W. Galbraith

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and a month & of fl.

he **AT** *is* *immature* *and*

111 22 51 Native plant
habitat

Madville, Pa. Apr. 11 1874.

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My Dear General:

In the testimony of Gen. Sickles
on Gettysburg, p 296, Vol I, 1865. Rub. Doe, he says,
"My preliminary orders in going to Gettysburg &c"
To what orders does he refer? I can find
none of Meade's to that effect. If it was of
Reynolds who commanded that wing, when
was it issued? If he had such orders
why did he not obey them?

You no doubt have all the documents at
your fingers' ends, if not on your tongue
end, and I shall esteem it a very
great favor if you will inform me.

Very truly, yours,

May, Gen. O. O. Howard.

Emmanuel P. Bates.

Ap. 11. 1874

Balis, Saml P.

Amel April 15th 1874