

Portland, Oregon

February 22nd 1877

General O. O. Howard,
Portland, Ogn.

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Sir

Now that I possess the right to address you, without standing in awe of that terrible inquisition known as Military Authority, I take this opportunity of presenting to your consideration, my views of the matter, which called forth the ex parte review, which appears in your G. O. No 37, dated the quarter Sept of the Columbia Portland, Ogn, Series 1876, promulgating the proceedings etc, of the Court Martial before which I was tried, and honorably acquitted, at Fort Vancouver, W. T., on the 20th December last.

It is needless to recapitulate the charges contained in my various letters. They have already appeared before you, and consequently, must be familiar to your mind. That they were of a character to call forth at your hands, a full and searching inquiry can scarcely be denied, but why such a course has not been pursued, I cannot conjecture.

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In the face of the facts presented to the Court, and the admissions of Capt Jocelyn under oath, you appear in a dilemma to account for the verdict rendered when you say, "that the Court has had its attention diverted from the Cause of the accused to that of the principal witness". Why? In order to establish my case, it was essential to pursue a course of cross examination, which resulted disastrously for Captain Jocelyn. Was this diverting the attention of the Court, or merely eliciting from the Chief witness testimony under oath, that would support my position.

Why do you believe "that the interests of the service will not be promoted by a re-assembly of the Court"? I am of the opinion that an absolute necessity existed to prove one of two things, viz:—

1st. That I was a liar and a slanderer who sought to ruin the reputation of an excellent officer, or.

2^d. That that officer was guilty of all he was charged with.

The Court held the latter to be the true view of the matter and to the decision of ten gentlemen under oath, I bow with all due deference.

Pray General is it an exceptional, or rare thing, to find in the Annals of the Service, officers tried and found guilty of embezzlement, &c. &c. &c. then why do you surmise that there seems hardly "a probability in this case, of the public property having found an available market." I say now that a valuable portion of the property found such a market, and moreover, can prove it, by the testimony of witnesses of unblemished reputations.

Now did ever such an opportunity present itself to a reasoning officer before, to uphold the interests of the Government, but they will not be promoted by a further investigation into the matter. Why this seems puerile in its logic, and unworthy the great pamphleteer, O. O. Steward.

To me it seems that the prosecution failed in no part of its duty. The officers who composed the Court, could not, under the solemnity of their oaths, arrive at any other verdict than that submitted. I was no way malicious, impertinent or disrespectful in using forcible language, asking justice to the

Government, but you view the matter in a different aspect altogether, presumably on the grounds of the affinity that is said to exist among Gentlemen.

Truly matters have come to a grave pass, when an officer vested with the power of adjudicating on cases of so grave a nature, as trials by General Court Martial, and who is supposed to hold the scales of justice with an impartial hand, so stultifying himself as to feel angered, (as you evidently do, at a Court of Officers, any one of which is your equal, and Superior in all that tends to make the man, far not punishing one, who had the manliness to expose a fraud so contemptible in its aspects, as to merit the condemnation of all just men.

Further on, in your review of the proceedings, you say "it is well to state strongly, as it appears in uncontradicted evidence, that he (Capt. J.) turned over to the post Quartermaster at Camp Bidwell, all public property in his possession surplus included, and holds his receipts therefor."

Pray where is that high

3 4 5 6 8
sense of dignity, honor and manliness,
which you are supposed to possess,
brought to bear on this subject. Why
you unconsciously held as tenable, one
of the material positions I assumed, is
that Capt Jacelyn did ship to the Ar Mr
at Bidwell, all surplus property, but
did he, as the rules of the service make
imperative, take up and invoice the
property.

The mere fact of his holding
receipts for the property, on bills of lading,
amounts simply to this - that it was
duly received at Camp Bidwell.
Now let me ask, if the receipts in the
hands of Capt Jacelyn, are anywhere
interwoven into the accounts rendered the
government. I say they are not, (you
know it too for he admitted on my
trial, that the surplus property at
Camp Warner, was not taken up by him,
in his indebtedness to the government.)
Further permit me to ask, what has become
of this surplus property, and has it to
this day, found its way into the hands
of its legitimate owners, or is it even
committable. I may answer the question
in the words of the unfortunate Fisk,

"it has gone where the woodbine twineeth."

Do you comprehend the gravity of this question, or can you for once rise to the dignity of what an American Soldier should be, and say, that your action in receiving the proceedings in my case was impartial. No Sir, you cannot, and had you pursued a course that would commend itself to the men of your command for its fairness, you would have compelled me to prefer charges against Capt. J. J. J., based on the accusations contained in my letters, the result to be determined by a Court Martial. Should I then fail to substantiate accusations so degrading to an officer, let ample punishment be visited on my head.

Did such a transaction as this arise in most of the Monarchical governments of Europe, (of which there is scarcely a possibility) my action would have been commended, and whatever little breach of discipline I had been guilty of, would have been overlooked, looking to the fact of the general good achieved. In the Empire of Germany discipline is so regulated, that an officer so culpable,

(as Capt Jocelyn admitted himself to be.)
would suffer death.

In this Country however
the boasted Republic of America, justice
takes an inverse course. Oh for the days
of Washington, Jefferson and others of
our great men. What was Washington's
opinion of an officer around whom the
semblance, or even a shadow of dishonesty
existed.

Were not persons so suspected
hurled from power? Were they not the
despised of their race. Were not their
relatives and friends debarred from
holding any position of trust whatever,
and were they not lastly ostracised
by every reputable member of society.

How matters have changed.
What an aspect morality exhibits to day
in many of our public officials. With
the rapid growth of the Republic and
the wonderful march of Civilization,
the representative men of America seem
to retrograde. What with a Secretary
of War, a Vice President of the U.S.
Calgar, an attorney general, Williams,
fond of cheap rides, Indian frauds,
Lummary thieves, Whiskey thieves

And their accomplices, Safe burglars,
Custom-house frauds (the most noticeable
Phelps, Dodge and Co., Credit Mobilier,
U.S. Senators and Representatives, it
would appear as if the desideratum of
iniquity had been reached by our public
and Christian men.

Verily justice seemeth not
enthroned on a pedestal of granite, but
on a quick sand, which the angry
waves of the peoples voice will not
fail to annihilate. Great events have
had their inception in small things,
so have the infamies hurray coming
to the surface, and which may even
yet, reach the Army, that grand honey-
comb of corruption.

I have viewed the service
from a standpoint (the only just
one) not accessible to you, the ranks.
I was but a very brief period in the
Army when I perceived, that from
the mess Cook upwards, almost all
seemed imbued with the idea of
stealing. Mens food was purloined,
and the unfortunate devil who opened
his mouth at the command of his

belly, was made expiate his sins of omission and commission in the guard-house, without any redress whatever.

Have you ever informed yourself as Commanding Officer of a district, how margins of from fifty thousand, to two hundred and fifty thousand lbs of grain can be made annually at ports, with the price thereof ranging from two to five and six cents a lb.

Have you ever heard of the gentlemen with what is known as plastic consciences, and who at a moment's notice are prepared to swear that God served the devil, or vice versa. Have you ever tried to solve the mystery of the rascalities perpetrated by affidavit men. The Wood and Hay Contracts might also form another fruitful source of investigation as well as what is known in the vernacular as "fences", and which are spread throughout the Army.

Truly your command of the Dept is quite creditable, if one may judge of the voluminous reports which have, from time to time, appeared. You certainly lay claim to a well regulated

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district, but permit me to observe, that
you have allowed slip, an opportunity
of exposing to view, one of the many
schemes of making money in the
Army. Had you probed it, you would
have found beneath the surface, iniquity
so brazen, as to imperatively demand
the expulsion from the service, of every
person who participated in it, but
no, it evidently did not suit your
purpose to disentangle this matter
though the charges against Captain
Jacelyn are terrific in their character.
viz: - that he misappropriated or failed
to account to the government, ^{for} eight
or ten thousand dollars worth of
property, that such property found an
available market, meaning thereby,
that it was disposed of, and for what
purpose, to enrich men who degrade
the uniform and character of American
officers, and yet, it would not subserve
the interests of the government to
determine the question, by a further
investigation.

What a pity to thus see
a Christian gentleman, an officer,

high in command in the service of his
Country, assume such an ignoble role.
So utterly ignore the public weal, and
clothe a question of paramount
importance in a species of sophistry,
so plummy, so threadbare, as to merit
the contempt it will so long receive.

Would the towering Sherman,
the noble, proud and chivalrous Hancock,
or the brave and wary McDowell,
deal with a question of this magnitude
as you have. No far from it. These are
true men of that type of manhood,
that Burns had in his ideal, when
he produced the immortal,

"A Man is a man for a' that"

I cannot help attributing
your dealing with this question as
with others, to a want of comprehension
of your duties, and to this lack of
knowledge must be conceded, I presume
the fact of your shattered reputation,
standing as you do indicted by the
government of your country, ^{so says the Army & Navy Signal,} with the
misappropriation of \$170,000, of the
funds of a class of people whose servile
and pitiable condition should have
made the administration of your office

a more than creditable and just one.
Oh what a sequel to a career, that
might otherwise have proved, so proud
and honorable.

I have left the service, proud
in the conviction that I religiously
kept my oath with the government
of the U.S. In all the management
of matters entrusted to my charge, the
unlimited confidence reposed in me
by my superiors, I assert without
fear of contradiction, that to the value
of one cent cannot be laid to my charge.
This is more, than many of much
superior position to mine can boast
of, but the American Army need not
fear of my stamp. Decency, honesty,
sobriety, manliness and intelligence,
are characteristics no longer required.
They degenerate from the times and
the men, who generally composed
the Continental Army under Washington,
but then as now, it produced its
Benedict Arnolds.

Do me the justice to believe
that I approached this subject, in
a sense of the most profound respect

for your position, but the circumstances of the case are such, as to render it imperative that I should thus write, feeling as I do, that I have been degraded, for what ought and should not, constitute an offence.

I do not ask any consideration of this matter at your hands just now, but I candidly confess, that I shall give you ample opportunity of replying, if you care, some letters which I purpose addressing you, through the medium of some one of the Eastern papers.

I have many friends serving in the Dept of the Columbia, exclusive of the officers whose good opinion I prize highly, who may be prone to judge this question from a standpoint of view, not creditable to me as a man. To obviate this, I purpose having printed in pamphlet form, 200 copies of this whole question, for distribution to the various military posts, commencing with the letters written to Capt Jocelyn, and so on, in chronological order, down to the com^{rs}. I now have the honor to invite, with the view of elucidating that grand

And sublime principle, so admired
by all lovers of fair play, "the truth".

Permit me in conclusion to
assure you, that the matter which has
given rise to this production, will
receive investigation from a source,
to which you will bear with respect.
it will then remain for you to
prove, (more conclusively, than you
have in other matters you have
undertaken) that you are an officer
capable of deciding questions affecting
the honor, honesty and integrity of
your command, in a manner at once,
honorable and impartial, as well
also, as of preserving intact the
interests of the government which
you have the honor to serve.

I have the honor to remain,
Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

J. H. Kelly.

Late 1st Supt of D. S. S. S.

Baxter, J. H.

1877

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Ans'd. Gen. March 14. 1877.



Personal
Medical Department U. S. Army, 463

Office of the Chief Medical Purveyor,

Washington, D. C. Feb 23^d 1877



Dear General

You have a young officer in your Department in whose welfare I feel a deep personal interest. I refer to Lt. Fletcher now at Fort Lapwai.

He is a graduate of the Naval Academy, and was at his own request commissioned in the Army instead of the Navy.

You will find him a young man of more than ordinary ability, and his talents is such in a particular direction that I have thought you might make it of service to you

by giving him a position as topographical engineer.

Should the want of such an officer present itself you would do me a very great kindness if you would give Lt. Fletcher a detail for such service.

I write this without any solicitation or even knowledge of Lt. Fletcher.

Sincerely your friend &c &c, Genl
J. B. Austin

Genl. O. O. Howard

No. 1.

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JAS. GAMBLE, General Sup't, }
SAN FRANCISCO.

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Feb 24 73

187 73

Received at

187

M.

To

John Buchanan

msg: to Eddie

John Howard delivered
at 127 pm at Quartermasters
of receipted for by M A
Buchanan Q M's clerk
Eddie present at time

Rogier S F 24

LRZ

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Owens. L.

1877.

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Orange Co. N.Y.

St. Mont-gomery
Feb 24th 1877

Dear Friend

O. W. Howard

My dear wife left us
last Sunday about 2-
o'clock she died as she
lived for the last fifty
years with a strong
faith in god.

my dear friend she
has been a patient-
sufferer for over twenty
years how often she spoke
of your kind sympathy,
and friendship she watched
you closely all through
the Rebellion, and with
a firm confidence in the
honesty of your integrity

mercy
e to
N.Y.

with what followed.

I have lost my first and last friend. I would mean to wish her back for one half hour. Knowing what she suffered I am in my 47 married year and it is very hard for me I trust in the same God she did and by his help will try to meet her when it is well with you think of me. and may we all meet where distinction will not part us how glad I would be to receive a note at your leisure if you consider me worthy of your notice

Your most humble
Friend D. Owens



OFFICE OF

William S. Wickham

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

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Norwalk, O. Feb'y 26. 1877.

Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard.

Portland, Oregon.

Dear Gen'l:— Some years ago—in 1868 or '9. I think—you were kind enough to send me, at my solicitation, a letter recommending me to the consideration of "Thorne & Co." as a person with whom you were personally acquainted during the war, having served as one your staff officers, &c., &c., modestly alone restraining me from repeating its contents in full. You will perhaps recollect my intention then was to have filed the letter with an application for a position under Gen. Grant, but having abandoned the idea, I never had occasion to use it, or any of the many others I secured. I have now, however, assurances from Senator Jno. Sherman in a letter from him, that in the event of Gov. Hayes

OFFICE OF
 William S. Wickham
 ATTORNEY AT LAW.

Being unopposed - which now seems almost certain, - he will assist me to whatever I ^{reasonably} may desire. It is also probable that Mr. Sherman will be a member of the Cabinet; and although I am personally acquainted with both Mr. S. and Gov. Hayes, I deem it but proper for me to file as strong "recommendations" as others. My intention now is - tho' I have not cared to have it advertised - to apply for the position of Paymaster U. S. A. If you can consistently help me by a letter - (if you consider it proper, an open one, addressed to Jno. Sherman, and mailed to me, to be used with others) - I shall feel under the greatest of obligations for your kindness.

Lieut. & Mrs. Jno. Z. Adams, 1st Cavalry, are and have been spending the winter with us - (Mr. A. being a brother of my wife) - and they both - especially Mrs. A. - speak of the pleasant visit you made them at their port.

Hickham, W. L.

Feb. 26. 1877.



My kind regards to Aunt. Bladen, if he
is still with you, and believe me to be
Very Truly Yours,
W. L. Hickham

Washington Feb 27th 1877 466

My Dear General.

I enclose a letter for General Sprague with the request that you will have the goodness to complete the address, & mail the same to him. I have forgotten his full name, & do not know how to write him, although I believe he is in some way connected with the Northern Pacific RR.

We are in the midst of the presidential election, & but a few days from the inauguration. Our people, are I fear, in the hands of the enemy. The old enemy of the North. If we can satisfy them, or if they become satisfied that the policy of delaying the count until after the 4th March will result disastrously to them, they may allow the count to proceed, but if they think that they can win in a new election they will procrastinate the count until the 4th March shall have been reached. And then, ——— It is never wise to write of happening events to those who will know of the result before your letter can reach them. We are not good prophets in this year/77. But if our people would recognize as a fact, that the issues between the sections are as inexpressible today as when Seward proclaimed the doctrine some twenty years ago. We might prophesy with some degree of accuracy, & with profit to the country.

You will remember that I wrote you some time
ago about Washington Territory - I am anxious
to see some State or Territory that will become
State some day - and hesitate between New York, or
of the States or Territories of the Pacific Coast. You
kind enough to write me of Washington Territory. What
do you think of Oregon? From what I have been told
I am inclined to believe that Oregon is about the
best of the Pacific divisions, taking any thing into
consideration. Will you have the goodness to give
me the benefit of your judgment, and especially
in relation to Portland & the possibility of settling
myself there as my residence, the law.

With thanks in advance,
Believe me, Dear Sir,
Very truly,
M. Woodhull

Chas. O. Howard

Close by. & barricade the road - to hold
the enemy in check at that point at all
hazards until I could bring up additional
troops. Telling him at the same time that
upon his own conduct would depend
the report I should make to you of his
disorderly retreat.

The trains owing to the
heavy condition of the roads were much
"strung-out". as were the attendant guards
& the Pontoon train which was behind General
Hagans. Supplies would be endangered
if the rebel Cavalry should obtain possession
of Clinton.

Receiving the three or four orders, to
whom you had left with me. Back for
such of the train guard as could be readily
collected, & having seen the Cavalry placed
where they could best delay the enemy
I went back & hurried up the first de-
tachment of the train guard which the
orders had forwarded to me. Placing
them in line behind a hastily constructed

Hudson O

Feb 28 1877

My dear General:

Yours of Feb 15 is just
received - I thank you for your kind
expressions & interest & will act upon
your suggestion as well as the limited means
in my possession with a view, but as the
only means I have of refreshing my memory
is the journal of the march from Atlanta
to Savannah. from which your official
report of the Operations of your Army was
made. I fear that I shall not be able to
furnish much of importance concerning
myself.

I became a member of your Staff
in June - 1864. while you were yet
in command of the 4th Corps. & participated
in all its engagements until you assumed
command of the Army of the Tennessee.

The following day, July 28th. while the 10th Corps was receiving & repelling the attacks of the enemy. you sent me to Genl Sherman to report the progress of the battle & to inform him of the exposed condition of the enemy's left & of the road by which a column of troops - you suggested a division - could be led to his flank rear. I found Genl Sherman at a house some distance to the rear - seated upon the piazza with Genl Palmer & several other officers & delivered your message.

He directed Genl Palmer to send a Dir. & instead of attending to the matter in person. Genl Palmer caused the Dir of Genl Jeff C Davis to be sent. which you will remember took a wrong road & failed to come up in time to be of any service.

On Nov. 20th after the commencement of the movements towards Savannah. I was sent forward to Clinton early in the day. to accompany Genl Kilpatrick who was to make a demonstration against Macon. The object of the movement was

accomplished. but about three o'clock the following morning. the enemy had become so active that I carried back word to you. that Kilpatrick would be compelled to retire.

Soon after reporting to you at Clinton which I did while you were breakfasting by candle light. the 4th Co. moved out & was left at Clinton to watch & patrol the main Macon road which there intersected our line of march.

During the afternoon. while Genl Hager's supply train was laboring heavily through the deep mud in front. I heard brisk skirmish firing in the direction of Macon & turning out met the patrol retreating rapidly & in a disorderly manner before a Brigade of Rebel Cavalry. The officer in command - a Captain of the 9th Pa. Cavalry. was thoroughly demoralized. & was making no effort to check his advance. Immediately making known to him by what authority I was acting. I ordered him to deploy his men upon a commanding crest

since commencing this by illness
and should be glad to revise & rewrite
but the time is so short until Mr. Monroe
will be home that I hasten to send it
unsatisfactory as it is to me.

Again thanking you my dear
General. For your kind friendly interest
I remain sincerely & respectfully
Yours. O. B. Carruth.
W. M. B. D. D.

Recd. Apr. 13. 1877

Feb. 28. 1877

Recd. N. B.

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Lamade of rails. & adding to the line as
others came up. Finally succeeded in
checking the enemy just on the edge of
town. Holding him there until nearly
dark when Genl Hagen came up & took
charge of affairs.

During the skirmish a rebel
cannon was captured upon whom a dislodge
ment was effected by the commander of the
rebel Cav. (who I now think was Genl Wheeler)
stating that the Yankee Cavalry was running
before him & that in a few moments he would
be upon our supply train. How much
damage he could have done is of course
uncertain. My modesty would not permit
me to say much on the subject at the
time & too. I was anxious that Genl
Hagen - who, until he came under your
command had not had justice done him.
should receive the credit of every little
thing that should in any way tend forward
his advancement. He reported the affair
I think but did not mention my name
in connection with it.

The next occurrence of importance in which I took an individual part, was the reconnaissance of Ft McAllister.

I was sent in charge of the few pontoons which accompanied Genl Kilpatrick & after approaching as near the Fort as the Genl deemed advisable & having collected such information as was possible - I crossed the river in a canoe & borrowing a horse related to you the result of the reconnaissance.

You asked me (in order as I always uttered that I might have the pleasure of making an affirmative answer -) if I thought Genl Hagen with his Div. could take McAllister - upon my replying that he could. You asked Reese. who was present. how soon Kings bridge would admit the passage of troops. He answered - that it would be done by daylight the next morning - You then turned to Yappart & directed him to issue an order at once. directing Genl Hagen to cross Kings bridge as soon as it was completed & proceed to Ft McAllister & take it. You permitted me to accompany

Genl Hagen that I might give him the benefit of my observations of the day before, so that I was present & participated in the attack - capture, of the place.

You will perhaps remember the rather trying fire to which I was exposed with you at Pocotaligo - trying because we became targets without the least excitement - when I accompanied you out on the march in front of the enemy's works. to try the consistency of the sand. & the practicability of a direct assault.

I refer to this merely to recall if possible to your mind. my action "under fire"

I am aware General that there is little in what I have written you upon which to base a report of my conduct. but if you can speak only in general terms of my efficiency as an Officer & conduct as a Gentleman during the time I was under your observation it will avail much with Mr Monroe. - counteract in his mind at least the evil reports of Genl Baker.

I have been much delayed