Sladen, J. A.

April 19, 1877.

Rec'd April 24 1877

Headquarters Department of Columbia,

PORTLAND, OGN., April 19th 1877.

Dear General:

Your letter concerning address of Lieut. McBlair is received. I know McBlair very well and saw him while in Washington. He studied medicine several years (and is now practicing in Wash.) in order that he might learn all about his disease and, if possible, obtain control of it. But he is not cured and is extremely sensitive about it. I feel that your letter would be a source of great annoyance for his disease is a subject that he never alludes to voluntarily and will not talk about. I would not write upon this if I did not know McBlair as well. He and I were students together.

In view of this I will retain the letter till I hear from you again. I have some good news. Babbitt has joined the reformed. He took a pledge this morning, very strong and comprehensive, and limited only by the time he remains in the army. One copy is filed with Wood, one goes to the Chief of Ordnance. He expresses a thorough determination in the matter and says he wishes he had taken it years ago. Weeks has had him in charge and gave him to understand

that he had gone to the end of his rope. He means to keep it. The pledge is ingenious in its strength and comprehensiveness, and is Babbitt's own conceit. In the Q. M. Dept. Dawson is to be kept in the second place; Brooks and Joe Batchelder are discharged at the end of the month. Col. B. has no orders as yet. You will probably have news of Lieut. Hyde's death before this. It will promote Shelton to Whipple's company. The town is saddened by Dr. Wilcox's melancholy end. It ought to have a good effect on people here. I hear that Isaac Page is holding out wonderfully well.

Your family seem to be all well. So is Mr. Ilsemious. My wife sees Mrs. N. every day, though I have not seen her since Sunday.

There is no news of interest.

Wood asks one to send you, with this, two papers for your action. He tells one that Col. Keeley this morning decided to keep Joe: so Brooks's retirement will be the only change.

Very truly yours

Sender

Gen. Howard.

P.S.

A letter came from Gen. Schriver recommending to clemency the prisoner Travis, otherwise Temple. I replied enclosing copy of your proposed order.

G.A.S.

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GEO. W. DYER & CO.,

SOLICITORS OF

American and Foreign Patents,

Counsel and Advocates in Patent Causes,

519 SEVENTH STREET, LOCK BOX 100.

Washington, D. C., April 21 1877

Genl O. O. Howard.
Portland Oregon.

My dear General. I have your letter of the 2d. covering Hearing Certificate for $278.94 to the order of Mr Mudge. which has been endorsed. expecting however to hear from you that some part might be retained for him. At his urgent request, I have held on to this matter for three or four days, until it seemed certain that no order would come from you to him. I enclose my check for the amount viz $278.94.

Yours truly
Geo. W. Dyer.

Washington Apl. 21. 77

Dyer Geo. B.

Enclosure Ck. for 27894
&c

file

Rec'd Matt Lapowai D.S.
May 12th 1899

Chicago April 22nd 1877

San Francisco

Genl O. O. Howard

Dear Friend & Bro

Your relative to the Gorry Green sec. and am sorry for the delay which has occurred in replying. I am out of the city part of the time in carrying forward my enterprise, which is progressing quite satisfactorily. So far as I have gone and think I shall succeed in establishing a very strong company. But it is as yet not far enough advanced to make any arrangements relative to employees. I shall be glad to do anything I can when the time comes for your friend in the way of a situation. There are however so many parties interested that it may be difficult for me to secure a desirable place for the young man. And it will be some little time before I shall commence operating, as it will be

necessary for me to return to Chicago for a short time on business connected with the enterprise & my own private business also, and as the work of establishing the manufacture of Paper here shall buy my wife & daughter back with me. My son is at the head of a manufactory & I am interested in it at Clinton Iowa from which place we can ship paper —

Shall hope to have the pleasure of seeing you on my return.

Please remember me to your wife & children & may the blessings of God rest upon you & yours

Truly

B. F. Hill

Remember me also to Capt Wilkinson

Feb. 22. 1857.

Seattle, W. T. April 23/77

Dear Gen'l Howard —

We want you to be sure & be with us during the sessions of our Association beginning June 21 next. And if you will accept it we will put the last evening (Sunday June 24) entirely at your disposal to do the best possible for the Cause & Kingdom without let or hindrance.

We enjoyed Capt Wilkinson's stay greatly. We want him here several weeks to help us. When can you spare him? A few of us will go with him on the street or anywhere to do good & fish up souls.

With great love to yourself & your family we are ever yours most faithfully

J. T. Ellis 2nd Lieut

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It is possible -
but not announce
or rely on him

Ans'd by Sladen
Apl. 25. 1877.
Ans again
May 3. 1877.

Oakland, Douglas
Co., Oregon, April 23. 1877.

General O. O. Howard,
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir: As I have heard your lectures on the battle of Gettysburg spoken of very highly, I write you for the purpose of ascertaining whether we can secure your services for two lectures on that subject in this place about the middle or last of May, and if so on what terms. The proceeds of the lectures would be used for the purpose of paying off the

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Will be impossible - in the field and cannot know when will be shown - Much obliged

Ans by Staden
Apl. 25. 1877,
and again May 3. 1877.

debt on the Methodist church at this place. Our society is weak at this point, and this is a little country village of about three hundred inhabitants, but I believe that I could sell one hundred tickets at one dollar each for two lectures on two consecutive evenings, provided they were on Friday and Saturday evenings. That is we would be able to realize one hundred dollars, I believe, for the two lectures. It might be that we should realize more. If you can make it convenient to come we should be very glad indeed to hear you, and shall endeavor to make your visit a pleasant one. If you should come we should want as much as two weeks notice, that we might be able to sell as many tickets as possible.

Hoping to hear from you soon I remain

Yours truly

W. D. Nichols,

Pastor of the M. E. Church of Oakland.

Portland Apr 24th 76

Gen Howard.

Dear Sir.

Last sunday was a good day. We had as good a meeting at the Young Mens Rooms as we have had for a long time. I mean the result was good in the Salvation of precious Souls. There were six sinners held up their hands for prayers, the meeting was led by Judge Bronough.

I wish I had of got that recipe from you for to destroy the appetite of strong drink. I could have made good use of it in two cases since you left. Our friend I took up to your house to pray with us is holding out faithful. You ought to feel the influence of the Holy Spirit present with you because I dont know how often I have heard good people offering their prayers to our heavenly Father in your behalf.

Mr. Wadhams has been considering all this time if he should trust me for $175.00 worth of goods, and he has given me an answer this morning, it is as follows he will do it if I will insure him that I will pay him $100.00 in 30 days and $100.00 in 30 days more. I do not believe there is a Store in town that would not be glad to sell me their goods, on those conditions. I did not accept the offer. I thought I had better get along without the goods if I could. I miss your daily visits and words of encouragement very much after you left, but after all, it is good for me to be left alone with God.

My regards to Cap. Wilkinson and may god bless you.

I remain very truly
Yours
Ed. Chambrean

Breck, Saml.

Apl. 25. 1877.

San Francisco Cal
April 25 '77

Dear Guid

I write this letter to you on behalf of Co. E 4th Infy. I hear from mutual friends that the Co. is pretty tired of their station at Fort Stevens, they have been there since '72 except while in the Modoc campaign, and they are worn out with their isolated position on a spit

of land - it struck me that in the changes about to be made there might be a chance to help them out a little I therefore venture to make the suggestion. Capt Miller is too good a soldier to complain himself and I dare say would stay there forever without a murmur, but if you ask him about it he can tell you what a depressing place it is. Excuse me for bringing up this subject but it was presented to me in such a way that I could not help but sympathize with their troubles, and I don't see any chance of doing anything for them here.

Yours truly

Benj. F. Peck

Maj Genl Howard

Portland.

Personal

Fort Wrangel. Alaska.
April 26th 1877.

Major General O. O. Howard USA.
Com'd Dept of the Columbia.
Portland. Oregon.

My dear General

Your esteemed favor of the 3d April is at hand. Contents noted.

With reference to the case of Indian boy "Esteen" I beg leave to state, that your suggestions as to my mode of action will be carefully carried out. but I am of the opinion that he will be left helpless a long time, waiting for a special act of Congress to relieve him.

May I be permitted to trouble you with a matter in which I shall be personally interested, in the event of change of station by my company — & that is on the question of transportation of my family when moving with the troops — allow me to suggest that when the contract for transportation is made at your Head Quarters, an express stipulation (verbally or written) be required of the transporting Company, that officers wives & families shall be carried free — an agreement of this kind made at your direction, by the Steam Ship Company

would relieve myself particularly from any anxiety on the score of passage money for my wife & little one — I am anxious to have this question settled arbitrarily at the starting point — viz between the contracting parties at your Head Quarters — and a line from you to the effect that free transport of Officers wives & families is a part of the contract of the Steam ship company, would effect this desired result — If it is left an open question to be decided by the ship's Purser — the Officer may find himself victimized to the extent of being compelled to pay full fare for every member of his family, excepting only himself —

With kind regards — I remain

Yours truly

E A Bancroft

Bancroft: E. A.

April 26. 1877.

Ansd by Gen. May 25. 1877.

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West Point, N. Y., April 27, 1877.

To Genl. O. O. Howard
Portland Oregon

DEAR SIR:

The body of Capt. **Alexander McRae**, 3d Cavalry, killed at the Battle of Valverde, New Mexico, February 21st, 1862, lies in the Cemetery here without monument or head-stone.

In honor to the memory of this brave officer it is proposed to erect over his grave some plain, enduring mark, and it is thought that many of his Class-mates and fellow officers, and many of the present officers of his Regiment, will be glad to contribute to this end.

A small monument was erected at Fort Craig over Capt. McRae and a Sergeant killed in the same action, but since the removal here no stone has marked his grave.

Should you desire to aid in this design, contributions may be sent to me here, or to the Adjutant of the Military Academy.

The nature of the memorial will depend upon the response to this notice, but it is believed that a subscription of five dollars will be ample to cover the expense.

Very Respectfully,

A H Russell

Lieut. of Ordnance.

Fileu

McDowell, Irvin.
Maj. Gen. U.S.A.

April 28. 1877.

File

Recd. Ft Lafayette N.Y.
May 14. 77

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Hdqrs. Mil. Div. of the Pacific & Dept. of California,

San Francisco, Cal., April 28, 1877

Dear General

I beg your pardon for having overlooked your personal note of last month, which I intended answering the day of its receipt.

Please be not concerned about the newspaper writer. I have not seen any of his articles. and it would not make any difference if I had.

The newspapers abuse General Kautz for having balls and private theatricals, as you say they do you for your religious life. Neither are proper subjects for the press. If an officer does his duty whether he fasts or feasts, prays or plays, is his own personal individual business with which the public has no right to meddle

Sincerely

Innis McDowell

General O. O. Howard

Portland

Oregon.

find your peace & comfort. I don't think therefore that you need apprehend active hostility from the Army – In fact – if you could manage to discover "that the "Nigger" is a failure and has disappointed your expectations"! – and "that in certain climates and under certain conditions, whiskey is not altogether a creation of the devil"! – and "that you are not quite certain that the principles of the Republican party are right"! – and "that, notwithstanding the fact that there are some twenty or ~~40~~ millions of your countrymen residing south of the North, you are surprised to find some gentlemen among them, who if they had had the advantages of Southern culture would ~~have been~~ be fit to be classed with the mirrors of chivalry of that section!" – in a word, if you can only bring yourself to make a good breakfast upon your own words and thoughts, I can promise you the enthusiastic support and fellowship of the War Dept.=

Sherman is your friend, is he not? – If I am right in this conjecture – put yourself at once into communication with him – and while the glamour of newness lasts, and before he has had time to quarrel with the Secretary – get him to present your case – and show him from what source all your opposition comes –

Don't delay this however too long – For as sure as there is a Secretary of war to quarrel with, so sure is it that Sherman will quarrel with McCreary – that is if McCreary has the making of a Secretary of War in him. The fight that General Scott waged against the Secretaries in his time is the inherited fight of all Generals in chief. It is the same old war that has raged since the world began – and before if we may believe the poets. The fight

Genl O O Howard
U S Army
Portland Oregon

Washington Apl 3d 1877.
2033 G St nw

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Dear General Howard –

Your letter of the 14th March at hand – thanks for forwarding my letter to Genl Sprague – & for your suggestions in re Oregon.

You conclude your letter by asking me to "write you 'in confidence to the present Secretary of War – I (you) mean tattle 'Straws", such as intimates, proclivities, Boyntonism-word – Belknap-'word or action-mind, whose church?" and then you say "The 'jesuits will of course run the War Department as usual, 'as no protestant has got strength to clean the Stable,"

I don't know the Secretary personally – but since the receipt of your note several days ago, I have taken some pains to inquire about him, and to come to a conclusion as to his readiness, to create a need for the occasion.

1st. I understand that he opposed the appointment of Belknap to the Cabinet, and was pretty chagrined thereat, when in opposition to his remonstrances, and those of other from his State and from the West, the President (Grant) appointed him to the War Dept.

2d. His friends seem to be Garfield, Hanson and men who thought as they were supposed to think a few weeks ago – for it is just now almost impossible to find any one who thinks at all if he can be saved the operation. The mental condition, I mean of Republicans, is one of suspended animation – And from all that I can learn I don't think the Secretary of war varies much from the prevailing condition of mind of his former and for aught I know, present friends, and party associates – He seems by his official acts to have formed relief from this mental condition of incertitude by turning as far as possible

from the present and immediate vicinity to the extreme limit of your department, and to have evolved the necessity for the withdrawal of the troops from Alaska from the nebulous condition of republican thought as to the withdrawal of troops from somewhere, a withdrawal being the demand of the day — The evolution of anything positive however is a great relief even though it concerns but a hundred or so blue coats, away north among the ice fields —

When in Congress he is understood to have represented Western radicalism tempered by intelligence and acquaintance with law — And I think he supported what is known as "the free bill". Just what he represents now! or will represent tomorrow or the day after — or for the matter of that, what any one represents, no man will be found brave enough to say — at least not I or I value the fame of prophesy —

5th I cant answer your question as to "Boynton bond". You will have to resolve an answer to that from your inner consciousness when you have digested the food for thought contained in this letter.

I know what you mean however by the question, and from what I can hear tell Henry, am inclined to think that he will not allow himself to be prejudiced against you on account of any thing that may have been written or telegraphed away from Washington to western or other papers to your prejudice — I should feel entirely sure of this of them was not another intimation in your letter that you apprehended the influence of enemies in the War Department. If that influence should be actively exerted against you it might be difficult to meet it — It is so being domestic. You know the effect of dropping water — no matter how fair or smooth the stone may be, when the drop! drop! begins, it is only a question of time — it will wear away the stone someday — I am inclined to think however that the dropping has about stopped in your case —

The attack upon you was with the democratic party a political necessity — The southern wing of the party demanded it — and their dirty allies of the north pimped eagerly to the task — The army as a body is democratic. That you know as well as I — The nation however dont know it, and it few never will — During the war the average regular officer had a kinder feeling for the West Point rebel who was fighting against his government and striving to destroy his country than for the volunteer officer who was standing by his side — The war would not have lasted so long — nor should we have suffered so many defeats, or so many indecisive victories, had it not been for this feeling — the result of the old democratic feeling which leavened the army before the war, and which leavens it now — The political needs of the democratic party requiring the attack upon you, it was easy to find assistants in the War Dep^t — through the democratic instincts of the regular army — There is the secret of the hostility of the War Dept people — It is no longer necessary to democratic success to continue the attack upon you — And your associates, finding no stress brought to bear upon them, will allow, without knowing it, and without thinking very much about it, their democratic instincts a rest — and in that sleep rest you can

But, how far we have got away from McCleary! – and yet not so very far after all – for if McCleary be the man I take him to be, he will see that no concession can be made to Sherman's demand to put the heads of the Staff Depts upon his Staff, and his failure to comply with this demand will lead to a coolness between them. Use therefore the present moment of sunshine –

You say in another part of your letter that Oregon will have population when Senator Mitchell "breaks through the "crust" which imprisons you from the outside world. I fear my dear friend your dependence is a weak one. The Senator strikes me as too light a weight to break through any "crust" –

Today's news is that the troops are to be withdrawn from the State House at Columbia, & that the same order will be sent to Genl Auger at New Orleans – This is the end of the Republican party in the South for many a long day – It means a "Solid South"! The absolute triumph of the "Mississippi plan"! – I have not that sublime faith in either human nature in general or in southern human nature that the President seems to have, so that I cannot join him in his pæans of victory – I am rather cross at it all – and fear that I may have shown this in my letter – Some of these days I will write you again, not about the army, but of the political complexion of affairs as it may be of service to you & know how "things" seem to one near the Seat of Govt.

To answer your last question, I believe McCleary goes to the Unitarian church when he goes anywhere –

He sends regards to your family & Hodder –

Sincerely Yours
M. Woodhull

While the devil fought against the angels, and which caused his expulsion from Heaven and his plunge into Hell – The fight for power! For mere power! – Power that of right belongs to some one else – but which the contestant wants.

Sherman can't understand that he is now, and must forever be until there is another war, but the ornamental head of the Army. He must make speeches in response to the toast "The Army" at dinners – and when we need the lighting up of our rather monotonous republican life by a little tinsel, to put on his uniform surround himself with his staff, and come to the front of the foot lights.

The command of troops reorganized for action; and the control of the administration of the Army are two different functions – Sherman is charged with the one. The Secretary of War with the other – You can't unite the two without prejudice to the efficiency of the Service. To unite the two in himself is what Sherman is trying to do – as we sometimes say of a Servant who aves the style of his Master!, or the manner of his life – He is above his place! –

If we should have a war he at once comes to the front. He organizes the Compagnie – Takes command of the troops! and finds full activity for his abilities and full occupation for his time. What would he then do with the administrative departments of the army? – with the recruiting? the provisioning of the Army? the transportation of troops? We should find him making a special order relieving the heads of the staff corps from duty on his staff, and ordering them to

upon to the Secretary of War -! —

He is too active minded a man for his present position ~~work~~! It is his misfortune that he was promoted to the Generalship. As Lt General he could have found something to do - as General he is out of work - He never has given enough attention to the ornamental to be entirely satisfied with his position. The best service that McClellan can do him is to hurry up the quarrel so that the General can go back to St Louis without further waste of time - There he could "boss" his orderlies - Here he must content himself with his staff. —

4th And now as to your reflection as to the "Jesuits" in the War Dept - If you mean the word as a religious designation I can't "speak to the motion" - but if you use it figuratively I am entirely with you in mishing the stables cleaned - For I doubt if there be anywhere in the world - even in the court of the propoganda - a denser set of Jesuits than there of the War Department.

It all comes from our absurd system of army organization - a system which might possibly be defended if we had a standing army of several hundred thousand men, and the possibility of war always impending - But for our little affair of twenty thousand men, scattered over a territory almost as large as Europe, I must say again that the system is absurd. I often wish the Secretary of War for a few months with absolute power. I think, like an expressive malgamism, I should make the "dust fly" —

I can't and shan't in the narrow space of a letter give you a plan of army organization - but when you and the other good people of Oregon shall send me to the Senate I will discuss the whole subject with you - I think I know the army! - I have studied its organization and its personnel without going into a discussion of the character of the last I think the first is about as illogical as it well can be - On a land it offers its premiums to those officers who have the address to get themselves as far away as possible from the troops, and makes of the War Department a very snug harbor - the getting into which constitutes the aim and ambition of the earlier days of every promising young officer - and the keeping there, the source of intrigue unequaled in any other department of the public service —

Dealing only with the War Dept I say without the shadow of doubt upon my mind, that the staff corps (except the Pay Dept) as permanent organizations should be broken up, root and branch - and the officers distributed throughout the army, and details made from time to time for duty in the staff Department, and no officer should be allowed to remain on duty in the department for a longer period than three or four years - I should at least require from the engineers periodical service with the troops. Not such fancy work as they can find with their engineer battalion, which is intended in the present scheme to answer such purpose, but actual work with the troops of the different arms - Our Army is a school - not an Army in the sense of Europe - Its blood should be constantly kept in circulation that all the influences of change & greater broader opportunities for culture can be availed of - Under our system its blood is coagulated, and the result is mental atrophy -