RETURN AFTER 5 DAYS TO
G. W. BALLOCH,
P. O. BOX 557,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Personal

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Washington D.C. Feb: 15th 1896.

Dear General.

I was very sorry not to have seen you on your visit here a few weeks since, but was prevented by matters beyond my control. I am glad you visited the dear old Church, and saw what we have been doing the past summer to improve it internally. The tower will come next in order. Almost every brick in the Church Edifice has a history fraught with self-denial and sacrifice, and it was our privilege to have aided in its Construction. At our Twentieth Anniversary a short time ago I told the Audience some things they had never heard of before in relation to the early history and struggles, of what is now the grand First Church, with its One thousand members. It has been in the past, and is now a power for good in this city. There is no uncertainty about its position on all the great questions of the day, and with such a pastor as we have, our future influence cannot be measured. He is just now giving us a series of sermons on "What is Congregationalism", which are scholarly, instructive and timely.—

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Dear General, how can I ever repay you for your kindly notice of me in the December number of the "Vermonter"? I have not words to express my gratitude on my own account, and my family are also very much pleased, as, published in that magazine it becomes a matter of history. During all the years it was my good fortune to serve with you, I always tried to do my whole duty. The habits of promptness, energy and self reliance for which you give me credit, came from lessons learned at Norwich University, supplemented by my subsequent experiences in the Rail road service. It was a delight to serve with you, for you never meddled with the details of my department (nor let any one else) but gave me full swing to run it my own way, trusting to my capacity to do it. Your perfect confidence in me, bound me to you by ties that cannot be broken. I hope many years of usefulness are still before you; And may our Father which is in Heaven, have you always in His Holy Keeping" –

Sincerely & truly

G. W. Palmer

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Normal Ills Feb. 15th 1896

Maj Genl. Howard

Washington D.C.

My dear Sir

Your article in the National Tribune that includes an account of the Capture of the Works on the Lookahatchie River is before me, as I look out from my window over a landscape covered with melting snow, the scene brings back the memories of that eventful afternoon of Feb. 3rd 1865.

I belonged to Co. A 32nd Ills Vol-Vol Infty. unless our Brigade diverged on more than one route across this River, My Regt. was in advance of the Column

Why I say this. I saw Genls Giles A. Smith. Belknap and B. F. Potts. along with Lt. Col Rider Commanding my Regt. as they crossed across, and heard them laughing and talking about no having to cross 35 smaller streams across the overflowed bottom, I saw them again after we had gained a footing at the foot-hills

720 2

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On the opposite shore the Genl. Officers shared with the men the only covering for the night; (the canopy of Heaven) My Company sent them a foretaste of their ration for supper ~~and~~ not one at breakfast — On coming at these foot hills we encountered a force of the enemy which were soon driven back — but our only defensive works were those thrown up by our tin pans, a plan was soon speeded in the sand sufficient to protect the the head and shoulders — That was a desperate undertaking — No money would induce me to go through the same again. Nothing short of patriotism, the water was so cold, that many of the men had to be carried out on the little Islands, and in some places it was so deep we had to carry our Cartridges boxes on our shoulders. We had to repeat the same, while crossing the north Edisto Feb. 12th 1865 above the Town of Orangeburg. S.C. With more experience however, there was much Ice in the water, that chilled to the very bone — The 32nd Ills. was detailed alone, to make a

No 3

No 3

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Crossing some 2 miles above Orangeburg. While the real-Crossed in front and below. I was told when we arrived in town at dusk, that Genl. J.B. Palmer late of Murfreesboro. Tennessee was in Command of the place and that it was noted as being the home of Barnwell. Rhett. who had been a noted member of the U S Congress before the war, Feb 17th 1865. My Brigade drew up directly opposite Columbia S.C. while the 15th Corps, which we could see were Crossing in from higher up the River. Genl. Benapp sent Co. C. of the 32nd Ills and a Co of the 13th Iowa, under Command of Col. Kennedy of the 13th Iowa across in Skiffs and took possession of the City. the Colors of the 13th Iowa, was hoisted above the State House, and those of the 32nd Ills over the City Hall. I was within a few feet of Genl. Belnapp. who was watching the progress of the expedition with his field glass, and when those Colors went up Genl Belnapp threw up his Cap and one round of huzzas rent the air. I was with the Regt. during its 49 months Campaigning. had only one furlough which was a Solution

No 4 300

furlough I wish to relate an incident that happened to yourself in Savannah Georgia. While reviewing our Division your horse fell with you in the street both going down in the sand and it appeared to me from where I was that your staff and body guard run over you, of course this was not the case. There is one more thought I wish to bring to your notice as you are a good philanthropist and feel kindly to the old veterans. I was pensioned for Sun Stroke while at Memphis Tenn. Aug. 1862. My original Pension Certificate read, pensioned for disease of Nervous System and heart disease result of Sun Stroke — And when I was allowed $4.00 more per month, Discharging my pension 10.00 per month which is all I and drawing, my Certificate was changed reading like this, pension for disease of Nervous System & left wrist — I tried in vain, to have it to include disease of heart, result of Sun Stroke, as it originally read — I have disease of the heart which at times incapacitates me from doing manual labor. Of late years many times I have been living on

No 5 241

Healy Fellows, and what is very strange, that a Soldier serving only 90 days and perhaps never left this State should be granted a pension without much effort — I feel that I have just reason to complain of the Commissioner of Pensions — and were my case be put in the hands of a special Examiner quite likely my friends would not have a chance to speak favorable to the Claim — If I was to die to day I would not have the means to give me a decent burial

I am liable to drop off any moment, as that excruciating pain in the region of the heart foretells

Please answer this I am yours

in F C & L

John B Palmer

late 1st Lieut. C. H 32nd Ills.

formerly of Co. A.

West Shore Railroad,
N.Y.C. & H.R.R.R. CO., LESSEE.
No. 5 Vanderbilt Avenue.

J. D. Layng,
General Manager.

New York, February 15, 1896

My dear General:

I take pleasure in enclosing the pass you desire for yourself and one on a line between Buffalo and Chicago. You will note that I have obtained this from Mr. Callaway, a friend of yours, and in order that you may see how freely it is given, I take the liberty of enclosing also Mr. Callaway's note enclosing the annual.

I shall be glad to know that this has reached you safely. With kind regards,

Very truly yours,

J. D. Layng

Gen. O. O. Howard,
No. 156 College St.,
Burlington, Vt.

Enclosures.

Mr. Roger Sherman
Buck Hill Co. Lessee.
Buck Hill Falls.

Pocono Summit House, Mon. Pa. February 12,1896

My dear General:

I take pleasure in enclosing the pass you desire for yourself and one on a line between Buffalo and Chicago. You will note that I have obtained this from Mr. Callaway, a friend of yours, and in order that you may see how freely it is given,I take the liberty of enclosing also Mr. Callaway's note enclosing the annual.

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Very truly yours,

Geo.

Gen. O. O. Howard,
No. 126 College St.,
Burlington,Vt.

Enclosures.

THE NEW YORK, CHICAGO & ST. LOUIS
RAILROAD COMPANY.

S. R. CALLAWAY,
PRESIDENT.

CLEVELAND OHIO, February 13, 1896.

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J. D. Layng, Esq.,
Gen. Mgr., West Shore R.R.,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Layng:

I enclose you a pass for General Howard and one, with pleasure. The General was a neighbor of mine at Omaha, and I have a very sincere admiration and affection for him and his family.

Yours very truly,

S R Callaway

ALTO OFFICE FEB 15 1896

The New York Chicago & St. Louis
Railroad Company.

S. R. CALLAWAY,
PRESIDENT.

CLEVELAND OHIO, February 13, 1896.

J. D. Layng, Esq.,
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New York City.

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Yours very truly,

S. R. Callaway

Burlington, Vt.
Feb. 16. '96

My Dear Otis

The enclosed papers seem to be for your signature so I sent them at once, that they may be settled. Your letter from No. 1 came this morning, with one from Mary enclosing the N.Y. Central pass. So you both met at Damin's office. Glad to hear that Adelbert is better. I think you did not expect to delay in New York — was on account of trains. Mary would ~~have~~ liked to have

been with you at Brockton and looked over the g[illegible] of his ancestors. Helen and Ollie have just come in from their Sunday school (a small class) It is pleasant to think that Grace and the rest have reached the end of their long journey. Our last news was from Omaha. They had a pleasant time, good cars and service satisfactory. All were well, and the birds no trouble. We have quite a deep snow now. One snow plow has made several trips about the side walks, and another on the electric car tracks then the big brushes follows. Snow on the roofs melting this afternoon gives us some trouble inside in new places. I suppose we shall go away after a while, but someone ought to come into the house occasionally. Guy will not set away ~~from~~ here before Sat. night. He was looking better. Bessie and I dined there on Ollie's birthday and again last Friday. The children are slowly getting over the whooping-cough. Jeannie seems to be quite well. We have the chickens you made out all right, I forget when they come to the house. This letter should reach you before you leave Chicago as I will put it in the Post Office to-night. We are both quite well Yours Lizzie

Middlebury Vt Feby 16th 1896

Maj. Genl. O. O. Howard
Burlington Vt

Dear Sir,

I hope you will excuse me, an entire stranger to you, for addressing you as I do, at this time and in this manner. I have a matter of business on my mind, about which I wish to consult you, and in which I think you will become interested. You are the President of the Congregational Homome Missionary Society. I am a life member of that Society, I have been since Jany 28th 1865. Therefore I think we have a great interest in the

prosperity of that Society

I will now state the case and tell you why I write to you. In 1874 my wife was in possession of some property & expected some more by her father's estate, and knowing the uncertainty of all earthly things she thought best to make her will & willed her property to me, to use as I needed it, if I should out live her, But if I did not use her property, or whatever, or so much as should be left at my death, was to be equally devided between the Home Missionary Society of N.Y. and the American Tract Society of N.Y.

At that time I was living in the Village of Middlebury, and engaged in the Tin, Stove and Hardware business, in Co with three other men.

On the Morning of Sept 11th 1875 our

-tore with all the good of
every kind was ruined by fire.
We as a Company settled up our
business affairs and dissolved,
In March 1876 I bought the Home
Farm from my father in law's estate
and as my business matters looked
to me at that time, I thought best to
have the farm deeded to my wife,
In Nov 1880 she was taken sick and
died in Augt 1881, During her sickness
by my request, she deeded the farm to me,
so that I owed the farm at her death,
and her will was never proved, But I have it
I notified the two Societies which were
interested in her will, of her death,
but never received any reply to my
letter. About the time that my
wife made her will, I made a
will to correspond with hers.
I was at that time, and of course am
now a Life Member of the A. T. Society

I have not been able to do much work for for several years and my health is geting poorer, & I am some in debt, so that if I should live untill April 97 I now think that it will be best for me to sell the farm and I want to sell it for as much as I can so as to have money to pay all my debts, and enough to carry me through life & have as much as possible to go to Home Missions & Tract Society.

The farm is south west of the village of Middlebury on road to Cornwall a little to the left of direct road. On an elevation of land which makes the situation of the house and its sorroundings very pleasant.

My neighbours say that it is the pleasantest location in the town. We can see, at my house & around it, within a radius of 1/8 mile, land ~~on~~

laying in over twenty five towns in it and to the west a very fine view of the Adirondacks in New York. Now what I would like, is to have you come here some very pleasant day before the foilage is out in spring, and when the atmosphere is clear and "look the land scape over". Not to locate an army but to see if it would not suit some of your Many friends who may be looking for a summer home away from the City.

It is a little less than two Miles from Sept: five Churches two hotels Court house & Jail (if any one want to visit that place) Stores, Mills, &c about one Mile to Graded School & less than one Mile to the College buildings. The College buildings are in plain sight of the house

I would like to hear from you and
also see you here, If I could know
whether you would come ~~or not I~~
I would make arrangements with
some one at depot, to bring you
to my house. If you wish to enquire
about me. I will refer you to
any of the business men in
town Lawyers, Doctors, Ministers
& Deacons &c. Yes Darwin
Rider. Hotel keeper. A. J. Marshal
at Depot or W. W. Eaton Prof in college
Dea T. E. Boyce. Dea. M. H. Monroe
Col. T. M. Chapman.

Respectfully yours
Henry J. Wilcox

Febr. 17th 1896.

To General O. O. Howard.

Dear Sir:

Not knowing your present Residence, I had to inquire first, yet had I been aware that you still lived in Washington City, I would not have been afraid to address a letter to you to that town, for any letter carrier 24 Hours old in the Postal service, would have found your Residence sure enough. About 30 years ago I were personally acquainted with you. For about the first day of Jan. 1866 until the first day of April my headquaters were every third day on the same floor with yours, in the Freamansbureau on the nightshift; when you left the bureau on the Evening, I took posession of it and held it, until your Clerks came back next morning, when I modestly retired to my own quaters in the basement, as a member of the Corporals Guard of Co. H. 8 Reg. U. S. V. V.; as much as I can remember of you: You were a dignified Gentleman minus one arm, I believe the left, but in no way emperious.

While like Hellen of Troya or Troya could bevail the destruction of Charstage, I claim I could see a little further ahead than just to the end of my nose. When this last Administration came in to power and the Secretary of the Treasury with an emty U. S. Treasury befor him, at least as far as Gold or Goldcoin were concerned, went to work to ask the Bankers to help him out with Gold; I were well aware than already, they would help him out, not with Gold only, but out of Gold consequently. For I consider it,

NB Please Sir. excuse me for taken
your Address to be Rutland Ave. Washing't D.C.
instead of ——— Vt.

to be a golden rule for any one to adopt in practical life:
„Reach your little finger to the devil and he will take you in soul and body!" Since than I have not like Hellen bewailed the condition of our Sovereign People, but have put myself up on the warpath. — To give you first a little brighter view of my own life I will tell you: In forepart of July last 1895 I left Montana for the east, while I had been for the last five years, what People call out there an honest placer or Goldminer; that is: Men that perform hard and dirty work for the least pay; even the first two winters I had to leave my ground, it being 70 feet deep and not well enough open that I could take out any gololdust, nor desiring to stay and run in debt; the first winter I worked once more in a Coalmine, 70 hundred miles away, the next I chopped Cordwood on Contract for rather low wages yet I paid my way, yet always poor I were most independent, but when I found that our People as a Nation had lost there Independence, it were trampled under feet, by the Cohorts of S— — in Wallstr. I considered I had a Mission to fill and for that purpose be more close to Washington D.C. before Congress again convened; I expected to run a peanuts stand somewhere, yet I felt no inclination for do any business on small Scale; yet I were trained as a boy for to turn out to be a Merchant or Banker once. Finally drifting to Milwaukee I accidently got a view of the National Soldiers Home. Knowing that in my study of practical life for 40 years, I could hold my own with any class of People, and permit no one to walk right over that little Ass, I could do the

same thing with the old Veterans. I applied Aug. 1st and got finally admitted as a member of the Home. and find it my duty to give you my Idea of the workings of the Home: If all the seven National Homes are managed like this I must admit: The Members here the old Veterans are well feed well clothed, well quatered and have all the medical Treatment they require gratis, those what are not disabled to a pensionable degree, as I happen to be one of them, even get once a week the Allowence of a Packet Tobacco or part of a Plug, those what have $6, 12, or 16 dollars a month byside pay for pension, you may think can be perfectly happy even if they had befor they entered the Home only the Boxcars on a Railroad trac for there lodging Place, and a handout from a farmerswife when they were hungry on the road traveling; but not much. There is an other golden rule the People at large so little obey: "Be moderate in all things." the real happiness in our life. During the six months of my stay here I have times and again helped out those pensioners with $6 and 12 pension, with my allowence of Tobacco part or full Packet what I had to spare, because before one month were up after payday, those men were even without a dime to buy there own Tobacco. I consider the seven National Homes to be the greatest Monument the Nation has build to the memory of our Heroes that have bleed and died on the battlefields of the late war and now rest in piece in nameless graves, for the living survivors to be occupied as a comfortable Home to there dying day if they will only be man enough to retain it.

Yet our Home is surrounded with Home comforts, even man what hold from 6 to 16 doll. Pension and are much more able to do a days work than I am, can if they like to work a little, earn byside from 5 to 10 doll. p. month in the Home, they seem to be not untended; whenever they get the weekly National Tribune, there whole interest seems to be centered in Pension legislation, if there be any new Pension in view or an increase of an old one. — I consider the Membership of a National Home to any old Veteran, to be an equivallant of $12 p. month Pension Do you consider it a wise and generous legislation to allow old Veterans that can not get along inside or outside of a Soldiers Home with $12 p. month $50 or 60. and thereby run our Government once more into dissolution and bankruptcy. I consider more Statesman like and less squaw like Legislation would look much better. Men on to 70 years and more, old and feeble in the far west that served 3 and 4 Years in actual war, are now dropping of in to there graves in old age without one doll. Pension in there favor, but perhaps they are to far away from the Polls on Election day, therefor of little consequence.

Of late I have noticed an eulogny of J. P. Morgan in a Milwaukee Paper, the great Banker and Philantrophist whose father were already an english Banker or Jew, born in Massachus. April 17th 1837 my Father were born on that day but he were anything but a Banker or a Jew. I myself were born just 2 days sooner the 15th of April 1837, therefor claim to be an older Banker than J. P. Morgan, as a loyal Citizen only cemented to the Sovereignty of our People, while he is cemented to a foreign Element that is dangerous and hostile to our Institutions. As a Gambler in Government and Railroad bonds, he may be even of a generous and

Philantrophic turn once a while. For I myself have met in my travels Gamblers that the night befor have bled their neighbors out of several thousand dollars in faro or poker, would the next day generously throw out a fifty or 100 doll. bill, when called up on by the Sisters of Charity. Now that Gambler J. P. Morgan seems to me, has had his own way in our Finances since 1875. Therefor that Monster of a Devilfish had his Tannachels in every Act of Congress since, on Financial Questions. Most likely the Goldreserve were nothing but a rotten bulwark of the monsters of Wallst. to drive our Government once more to dissolution and bankruptcy, when ever Congress would dare to pass an Act to even tax them on their ill begotten millions, as they have proved since that income Tax law were in construction. For had our Secretary's of the Treasury from John Sherman on till John G. Carlise since the Greenbacks 79 were declared a full Legal Tender for all Debts public and private even for duty on imports, never paid out a single dollar in Gold for their Exchange out of the Treasury while we had had all along the Goldstandard since the war, our plain Legal Tender notes would have been just what they now are, on par with the Goldollar as a Unite and the Redemption money of its own redemption for it would have been a criminal offence for them to run their par value down inside the boundary of the U. S. States fosterin on to treasen, they knew it, and so mistified our Financial System that a Hog could not well find its way out.
While the U. S. without a dollar in the U. S. Treasury with only the golden Harvest of our Wheatfields the Herds of Cattle and Flocks of Sheep on on our Plains, is capable to float at 1000 Millions of plain Legal Tender

Notes on par with the Gold dollar as a unite, without even ever atempting to redeem a single dollar of it in Gold, it can already in two years time be redeemed by the Government in collection of Taxes on par with the Gold dollar as a unite, and while out purchase one and all Commodities on par with the Gold dollar as a unite; therefor our present Silverdoll. and Gold dollar Legal Tender notes are nothing but an Act of Simplicity and duplicity in our Treasury Department, the one reducing a dollar down to 50 Cts, while the other is doubling the Peoples money from one dollar up to two and three by the time that Devilfish in Wallstr. got his good work in on them.- My experience in farming in Oregon, I have paid 10 prct interest on some money due on the farm and know that at the same time some of my neighbors in the Willamette valley paid 8 to 10 prct interest on their farms on heavy mortgages to the Scotish Comp. while their wheat brought only 50 Cts p. bshl. in Portland Oregon. As a Banker I might persuaded any those farmers whot owned than a farm there, worth 20000 dollar and a clear Titel to it, in 1886 and 1887, to give them 10000 Dollars on a first Mortgage on theire farm wt with 10 prct. interest to pay; inside of 5 years I might call that 20000 doll. Farm my own and tell that Farmer to pack up and leave with his family without a dollar in his posession. That is just about the way that noble J. P. Morgan has been treating Unckel Sams farm with one mortgage after an other telling Grover and Carlise, it be a good thing to raise the credit of the nation, by dumping one hundred Million Gold dollars after an other like a bucket full of water over a sieve in to that white Elephant the Gold reserve.

Det

By mail I send with this letter a Copy of my own Sound money doctrine and ask your kind Consideration; Yet I must trust that you will guard that it will not come before the public for that is not its purpose; it is No. 8 for I are now since Jan. 4. 96 in the Halls of Congress, one with the Executive Department, I have recommended that if hence, the ten Commandements be observed by them in general and my Soundmoney doctrine specially as the Eleventh, the Country may prosper yet. Therefor I would like to see an Act passed in Congress what I have recommendet to J. G. Carlise in July 1894 already once: That 70, Million Silver dollars be paid out of the U. S. Treasury annually to pay one half of all Pensions quaterly payments in Silvercoin. while the biggest half of all Pensioners receive less than 250 doll. p. Annum it will be in no way inconvenient to them. As those Silver dollars are to be paid out as a full Legal Tender for all Debts public or privat they will buy just as many dollars worth Commodities as a Gold dollar or counterfited Legal Tender would with a Goldollar on his back, as a circulaten medium they will be redeemed by the Government any time for Taxes or Revenue on par with the Golddollar as a unite. It shall be done with the mutto: In God we trust and the Supreme will of a Sovereign People. all Laws or it standing Acts of Congress contrary to the proper working of this Act shall and are hereby repealed. — Now General if you will give me the moral support of the old Armee at large, I will write a letter to General J. N. Walker my Comander in chief G. A. R. for the moral support of that order I think we will make a success. It would mean: stand by our God a Sovereign People and fight the Devil in Wallstreet. Please let me hear from you soon. You may send a good Styl form of an Act of Congress along with your letter. and your Advise

Yours truly R. N. Miller.

National Home, Wis.

Dewitt Miller
Drawer 1612
Philadelphia

are sent by
herewith.

THE UNION LEAGUE
PHILADELPHIA

12 Feb
[1896]

Will-shower
be Gen. Howard's
pleasure, on a
blank of the
book on Mr.
Lincoln wh. went
to him a day
or so

ago, to write
a line or two
about "father
Abraham" and
to add his
name the place
and the date,
Mr Miller
moved

be alike grat-
ified and
grateful.
Postage stamps
for the return
of the book
to