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### Newspaper Clipping re: Prof. Greener

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#### Recommended Citation

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# Prof. Greener Lauds General Howard

## BRINGS OUT HIS STRONG POINTS

### Reviews the work of the Freedman's Bureau -- From address delivered at Institutional Church, Nov. 13th

Professor Greener supplemented Gen. Grant's resume of the life of General Howard by referring to particular facts of his life—participation in thirty-nine battles, the march from Atlanta through the Carolinas; how he repressed Union marauders at the burning of Columbia; shaving the head of one miscreant; how he cared for the distracted freedmen blendly following the army; had Meade at Gettysburg, followed Howard's and Haupt's advice, Lee would have been crushed, and the war shortened by two years. Howard was a poor boy of New England parentage; of true Christian training—a kind, rare nowadays. He was never ashamed either to exhibit his anti-slavery, liberty-loving or Christian principles on all occasions, by his sincerity and unaffected maintenance he caused them to be respected. If you seek his real monument it may be found in the chain of colleges, from Howard University, at Washington, at Atlanta, at Nashville, at New Orleans, and lastly the crowning effort of his life, the Lincoln University, for the poor whites of the south to which his latest efforts were directed. But as meritorious as was General Howard's work in the Freedmen's Bureau, let us not forget there were thoughtful, brave, patriotic men before him who saw what ought to be done for the slaves cast adrift. Butler, let his name always be held in grateful remembrance, pronounced the magic word "contraband," and cut the gordian knot of red-tape, and subserviency to slavery; Fremont in the west, Hunter and Caxton at the south, but above all General Grant, November, 1862, on his own initiative, anticipated the formation of a Freedmen's Bureau, by organizing the immense mass of colored camp followers—wanderers, who had fled the plantations and gathered at Grand Junction, in the Mississippi valley, in a coherent helpful, self-supporting force, trained to tread in the path leading to freedom, by civic or military methods. Here were over 50,000 had gathered, threatening demoralization to the army, Grant selected Colonel John Eaton to assume charge and organized them into a body, which not only augmented the effective force of the army of the Tennessee, but made the freedmen themselves self-supporting. The south today appeals to northern ignorance for sympathy, by picturing how millions were wasted on "lazy, improvident niggers," by bureau experiments

themselves, for medical attendance and medicines.

At first it was thought the negroes would resent this tax upon their earnings; but to their credit, at no time, nor anywhere, did they resist this proper exercise of philanthropy. They freely acknowledged their duty to care for their own and took pleasure in bearing these burdens. Imagine the moral effect on these people who hitherto had only what master chose to give them at holiday time, no wenvoying the fruits of their own labor, and you will begin to learn to bless the names of the Union generals and philanthropic men, who assisted them to be come self-supporting.

Let me cite another instance. At the Little Farms, Arkansas, same year, 1864, where the Government had advanced all implements and draft animals and seeds—a year when the cotton crop was a failure—their chief reliance, remember, to pay their debts, these negroes earned enough cash to pay the Government every cent of the outlay and fair wages to the hands. Out of 11,363 freedmen who reported during the working season, only 985 were dependent enough to be forced to draw rations. And even these were doing work enough to pay for the rations given them by the Government. At the same time, by the same official report, twice as many whites within the lines as blacks were drawing Government rations and making no return payments whatever, and very many of these white refugees were glad to live with and work harmoniously with the thrifty negro in partnership! Many white civilians were on hand to turn a penny honestly or otherwise. Beside their regular work these people had little cotton patches of their own. Cotton was high then and speculators were lively. Each negro when he sold his crop must pay \$4 for a Government permit.

But God raised friends even among speculators. One man, Spelman was his name, John D. Rockefeller married his daughter. They will show you at Atlanta, a magnificent seminary for colored girls bearing his name. It is, indeed, a noble monument, worthy of any man. Mr. Spelman bought one Government permit and then purchased from these freedmen their small crops and in this way saved these small cultivators over \$3,000.

No greater lie ever disseminated by a cruel vindictive rebel crew. Let Grant's experiment of 1862, even at this late day, give the lie; if not, add General Caxton's testimony of the experiment at Port Royal, S. C., or that of General N. P. Banks at New Orleans.

Instead of apologizing for an existence and trying to placate the sons of rebels, we Americans of African descent, have a right to stand up and refute the lies still told and written and believed about us.

From the opening of the war to 1865, at the formation of the Freedmen's Bureau, the United States Government spent no money for the freedmen as such. On the contrary everywhere at first the negro helped the army simply for food and shelter.

In the Mississippi Valley, Cairo, to Memphis, where General Grant was, 1862, amid a population of rebels, slaves and poor whites, the slaves who flocked to his army were of every value. They gave valuable information for the guidance of our generals. They supplied the laborers needed for the army and thus immensely added to the strength of our military forces. They became the servants of the army, and by their fidelity and aptness, showed their capability of being made useful, as soldiers later, in every arm of the service, and at equal pay. Over 80,000 of them, either served or died as laborers or soldiers. Did they only have confederates to convince of their worth and value? No, they had to encounter the meaner prejudices of Union soldiers from Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana and other northern states, until at last by their faithfulness, by their work, by their valor they converted the Union soldiers. Each negro, man or woman, who entered the Union lines added a man to the army and drained the enemy.

These negroes, who by Grant's foresight, were taught to help themselves, not only earned wages enough as laborers to support themselves, cultivated extra crops of cotton and corn, but by September, 1864, had cut in this district alone and delivered to the steamboats over 60,000 cords of wood, which put to the account of these negroes \$125,000 and saved the United States Government an expense of \$90,000 by selling at \$1.50 per cord less than the Government could have obtained from private parties. In addition, these freedmen, loaned to the Government, what no white man would have done, their own teams, wagons and harness, many of which they had brought from their plantation homes. And there is even a record, that because of careless care of vouchers, several thousand car-loads of wood, delivered to the Government, were never paid for. In these woodyards alone, 3,000 negro men and women were employed—the men as choppers, haulers, the women in loading and unloading the wood on arrival.

And from the money kept back, very properly by the Government from the wages received, these "improvident, lazy niggers" paid for the care of the aged and infirm and for the maintenance of hospitals for

Good people believe today the United States Government was paying out money for these freedmen. No, this tax fund even supplied clothing, household utensils, salaries for hospital stewards, supplies of instruments and other incidentals amounting to \$103,000, which as they were furnished by northern business men and at a large discount, would have amounted at ordinary cost prices to \$350,000.

The 81 bales of cotton sold by Mr. Spelman from the Home Farm and 172 other small producers, brought the tidy sum of \$73,792.

Whose lusty sinews kept the Mississippi open to navigation during all this period for the uninterrupted travel of the Union transports before Vickburg surrendered? Who, but the negro woodchoppers, the first beginning to employ the freedmen. They furnished the fuel for the steamers; they made it possible for material and troops to be transported at Young's Point Landing, Paw Paw and Island No. 102.