

was indicated by the fact that the ordeal had exhausted his personal exchequer.

The *Farm, Field and Fireside*, of this city, under recent date, of which Gen. C. H. Howard, a younger brother of the Major-General, is one of the editors and proprietors, speaks as follows of the senior's relation to the Bureau. The younger brother was upon the staff of the older during a part of that seven years of the operations of the Bureau, and for a number of years was Assistant Commissioner for the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware and West Virginia, and so was personally acquainted with the minutiae of its business :

"It was not a position of his own seeking. He was designated, out of all the Major-Generals of the army, Regular and Volunteers, by President Abraham Lincoln. There is not space here to sketch in the merest outline the work done. It covered seven years of his most energetic and active life. It touched fifteen of the States and involved the profoundest questions of economics, of sociology, of education, of humanity. Confiscated land was cultivated, cared for, its revenues economically husbanded, and much of it finally restored to former owners. One hundred and forty-four thousand paupers, white and colored, were to be provided with food, clothing and shelter. These were provided for and finally reduced in number by finding work for them in all parts of the country, until only three hundred of the aged and crippled were left remaining in the hospital at the end of the seven years.

"At first all the legislative and judicial functions of the State, as far as related to the freedmen, devolved upon this Bureau. The relation between the ex-slaves and their masters must be readjusted. This was finally accomplished in such a way as to protect the freedmen from oppression and to win even the confidence and gratitude of most of the leading white citizens of the different States.

"The greatest boon of all to the freed people, which their newly found country bestowed through the 'Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,' was education. Of course it must begin with the very rudiments. But in the thorough organization, in the far-reaching scope, in the impartial opening up to these eager, human souls, of the privileges that go with letters, literature and schools, was consummated what General Howard justly feels to have been the grandest achievement of his life."

Soon after the close of the War the Rev. Drs. I. P. Warren, of Boston, and G. S. F. Savage, of Chicago, and I were going through the South. We fell in with General Howard and his staff at Jackson, Miss., and elsewhere. At that capital city I heard him addressing large assembly of white and colored people. He expressed the manly sympathy of the victorious soldier with the vanquished and with the emancipated people. He advised forbearance on both sides and the recognition of mutual rights, encouraging the people that the disasters of the times would by and by be ameliorated. The whole tone of the address was that of good-will and conciliation. At the end of it I heard ex-Confederates saying they wished that every white man of the South could hear those speeches.

Another member of his staff gave me an incident illustrative of the extreme difficulty and delicacy of the tasks to which the Commissioner of the Bureau was frequently set. Upon the Sea Islands the colored people had come into great distress over the proposition to dispossess them of the confiscated lands which had been assigned them. On one hand was the attorney of the old slave-masters from Charleston urging their claim; on the other hand was the plaint of the defenseless poor appealing to the umpire before them. While waiting a delay in the proceedings, the General asked the people to strike up one of their songs. In the midst of the assembly an old woman started in alone :

"Nobody knows de trouble I see."

As she advanced with the song, one after another fell in until the whole assembly were at it. The dignified General, sitting in the capacity of a judge, could scarcely refrain from tears. A settlement was finally reached, by all present voting to submit their case to the umpire, General Howard. Where veritable title had already been transferred to the Freedmen, it was confirmed; but in all other cases the lands were restored to the old owners. Difficult and hard as this decision was to the ex-slaves, yet they accepted it without violence, by reason of the personal influence of General Howard.

CHICAGO, ILL.

GEN. O. O. HOWARD AND THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU.

BY J. E. ROY, D.D.

THE press, secular and religious, has given abounding praise to this patriotic and Christian general. But in some of the papers there has been a singular confounding of the Freedmen's Bank with the Freedmen's Bureau, and in others a failure to comprehend the outcome of the investigations in relation to the General's connection with the Bureau.

General Howard had nothing to do with the Freedmen's Bank, and so could have had no responsibility as to the "wrecking" of that institution. The Bank was chartered before the Bureau, and went into operation entirely separate from it, and was not in reality a Government institution in any sense except as having a charter. The General distinctly declined to be a director of the Bank, and never had any official connection with it. But, confounding these two institutions, *The Outlook* associates the General with the "wrecking of the Freedmen's Bureau," and a writer in *Harper's Weekly* represents "the harpies who were not above swindling the freedmen" as thus "staining the name of General Howard" for a time. Of course he does not need the apology made by this writer: "He has lived that time down, however, and history will count him as a victim with his wards."

As connected with the Bureau, the General was subjected to three separate investigations: One by a committee of Congress, another by a military court of inquiry, and another under a suit brought by the Secretary of War. The first investigation resulted in a large majority report, completely exculpating the General, and not only that but giving him great praise for the consummate ability and tact with which he had managed the most intricate and difficult problems connected with the emancipation of the slaves. The following is the action that was taken :

"Resolved, That the policy pursued by the United States toward four and a half millions of its people suddenly enfranchised by the events of a great civil war, in seeking to provide for them education, to render them independent and self-supporting, and in extending to them civil and political equality, is a source of just national pride; and that the House hereby acquits Major-General Oliver O. Howard, of the groundless and causeless charges lately preferred against him, and does hereby declare and record its judgment, that in successfully organizing and administering with fidelity, integrity and ability the Freedmen's Bureau, which has contributed so much to the accomplishment of the first two of these great ends, he is deserving of the gratitude of the American people."

The second investigation, that by the Military Court of Inquiry, had as its president Major-General Sherman, and as other members Major-Generals Pope, Meigs, Miles, Getty, J. J. Reynolds and others of national reputation. This court, after spending months in hearing witnesses and examining evidence, completely exonerated him; and its findings were approved by General Grant.

The third investigation was conducted by the usual judicial process, having a jury impaneled under Judge Wylie, of the United States District Court, the Secretary of War, W. W. Belknap, of unsavory reputation, bringing the suit. After the evidence was in, the judge instructed the jury that there was no case against General Howard, and that it was an outrage to bring such a suit for such a cause as was alleged; that nothing had been proved against him, but that, on the other hand, he deserved the gratitude of his country for the manner in which he had discharged his duty as Commissioner of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands. The jury without leaving their seats rendered their verdict of acquittal.

And so the General passed through these three furnaces without the smell of fire upon his garments. He had administered upon eleven million dollars of Government money and not a dollar had stuck to his fingers. The wickedness of the prosecution and the persecution