

In August of 1865, a Colonel P.H. Anderson of Big Spring, Tennessee, wrote to his former slave, Jourdon Anderson, and requested that he come back to work on his farm. Jourdon — who, since being emancipated, had moved to Ohio, found paid work, and was now supporting his family — responded spectacularly by way of the letter seen below (a letter which, according to newspapers at the time, he dictated).



(Source: The Freedmen's Book; Image: A group of escaped slaves in Virginia in 1862, courtesy of the Library of Congress.)

Dayton, Ohio,

August 7, 1865

To My Old Master, Colonel P.H. Anderson, Big Spring, Tennessee

Sir: I got your letter, and was glad to find that you had not forgotten Jourdon, and that you wanted me to come back and live with you again, promising to do better for me than anybody else can. I have often felt uneasy about you. I thought the Yankees would have hung you long before this, for harboring Rebs they found at your house. I suppose they never heard about your going to Colonel Martin's to kill the Union soldier that was left by his company in their stable. Although you shot at me twice before I left you, I did not want to hear of your being hurt, and am glad you are still living. It would do me good to

go back to the dear old home again, and see Miss Mary and Miss Martha and Allen, Esther, Green, and Lee. Give my love to them all, and tell them I hope we will meet in the better world, if not in this. I would have gone back to see you all when I was working in the Nashville Hospital, but one of the neighbors told me that Henry intended to shoot me if he ever got a chance.

I want to know particularly what the good chance is you propose to give me. I am doing tolerably well here. I get twenty-five dollars a month, with victuals and clothing; have a comfortable home for Mandy,—the folks call her Mrs. Anderson,—and the children—Milly, Jane, and Grundy—go to school and are learning well. The teacher says Grundy has a head for a preacher. They go to Sunday school, and Mandy and me attend church regularly. We are kindly treated. Sometimes we overhear others saying, "Them colored people were slaves" down in Tennessee. The children feel hurt when they hear such remarks; but I tell them it was no disgrace in Tennessee to belong to Colonel Anderson. Many darkeys would have been proud, as I used to be, to call you master. Now if you will write and say what wages you will give me, I will be better able to decide whether it would be to my advantage to move back again.

As to my freedom, which you say I can have, there is nothing to be gained on that score, as I got my free papers in 1864 from the Provost-Marshal-General of the Department of Nashville. Mandy says she would be afraid to go back without some proof that you were disposed to treat us justly and kindly; and we have concluded to test your sincerity by asking you to send us our wages for the time we served you. This will make us forget and forgive old scores, and rely on your justice and friendship in the future. I served you faithfully for thirty-two years, and Mandy twenty years. At twenty-five dollars a month for me, and two dollars a week for Mandy, our earnings would amount to eleven thousand six hundred and eighty dollars. Add to this the interest for the time our wages have been kept back, and deduct what you paid for our clothing, and three doctor's visits to me, and pulling a tooth for Mandy, and the balance will show what we are in justice entitled to. Please send the money by Adams's Express, in care of V. Winters, Esq., Dayton, Ohio. If you fail to pay us for faithful labors in the past, we can have little faith in your promises in the future. We trust the good Maker has opened your eyes to the wrongs which you and your fathers have done to me and my fathers, in making us toil for you for generations without recompense. Here I draw my wages every Saturday night; but in Tennessee there was never any pay-day for the negroes any more than for the horses and cows. Surely there will be a day of reckoning for those who defraud the laborer of his hire.

In answering this letter, please state if there would be any safety for my Milly and Jane, who are now grown up, and both good-looking girls. You know how it was with poor Matilda and Catherine. I would rather stay here and starve—and die, if it come to that—than have my girls brought to shame by the violence and wickedness of their young masters. You will also please state if there has been any schools opened for the colored

children in your neighborhood. The great desire of my life now is to give my children an education, and have them form virtuous habits.

Say howdy to George Carter, and thank him for taking the pistol from you when you were shooting at me.

From your old servant,

Jourdon Anderson.

Letter from a Freedman to his Old Master.

The following is a genuine document. It was dictated by the old servant, and contains his ideas and forms of expression. [Cincinnati Commercial.]

DARTON, Ohio, August 7, 1865.
To my Old Master, Col. F. H. ANDERSON, *Spring*.

Some 1 year your letter was glad to find that you had not forgotten Justice, and that you would see to it that you would have me to come back and live with you again, providing to do better for me than anybody else can. I have since felt sorry about you. I thought the Yankees would have longed for you before this for harboring Nels, they found at your house. I suppose they never heard about your going to Col. Martin's to kill the United soldiers that was left by his company in their stable. Although you shot at me twice before I left you, I did not want to hear of your being hurt, and am glad you are still living. It would do me good to go back to the dear old home again and see Miss Mary and Miss Martha and Allen, Zacher, Green and Les. Give my love to them all, and tell them I hope we will meet in the better world, if not in this. I would have gone back to see you all when I was working in the Washville Hospital, but one of the neighbors told me Henry intended to shoot me if he ever got a chance.

I want to know particularly what the good chance is now proposed in regard to me. I am doing tolerably well here. I get \$25 a month, with victuals and clothing; have a comfortable home for Mandy (she fills her with her Mrs. Anderson), and the children, Milly Jane and Grandy, go to school and are learning well; the teacher says Grandy has a head for a penman. They go to Sunday School, and Mandy and me attend church regularly. We are kindly treated, sometimes we overhear others saying, "Them colored people were always down in Tennessee." The children feel hurt when they hear such remarks, but I tell them it was no disgrace in Tennessee to belong to Col. Anderson. Many darkeys would have been proud, as I used to be, to call you master. Now, if you will write and say what wages you will give me, I will be better able to decide whether it would be to my advantage to move back again.

As to my freedom, which you say I can have, there is nothing to be gained on that score, as I got my free papers in 1861 from the Provost-Marshal-General of the Department at Nashville. Mandy says she would be afraid to go back without some proof that you are sincerely disposed to treat us justly and kindly—and we have concluded to test your sincerity by asking you to send us our wages for the time we served you. This will make us forget and forgive old sorrows, and rely on your justice and friendliness in the future. I served you faithfully for thirty-two years, and Mandy twenty years, at \$25 a month for me, and \$2 a week for Mandy. Our earnings would amount to \$11,500. Add to this the interest for the time our wages has been kept back and deduct what you paid for our clothing and these doctor's visits to me, and telling a tooth for Mandy, and the balance will show what we are in justice entitled to. Please send the money by Adams Express, in care of V. Winters, esq., Dayton, Ohio. If you fail to pay us for faithful labors in the past we can have little faith in your promises in the future. We trust the good Maker has opened your eyes to the wrongs which you and your fathers have done to me and my fathers, in asking as toll for you for generations without recompense. Here I draw my wages every Saturday night, but in Tennessee there was never any pay for the negroes any more than for the horses and cows. Surely there will be a day of reckoning for those who defraud the laborer of his due.

In answering this letter please state if there would be any safety for my Milly and Jane, who are now grown up and both good looking girls. You know how it was with poor Matilda and Catherine. I would rather stay here and starve and die if it come to that than have my girls brought to shame by the violence and wickedness of their young masters. You will also please state if there has been any schools opened for the colored children in your neighborhood, the great desire of my life now is to give my children an education, and have them from virtuous habits.

From your old servant, JOURNOS ANDERSON.
P. S.—Say kindly to George Carter, and thank him for taking the pistol from you when you were shooting

Spiritualism vs. Orthodoxy—Metropolitan Hall—The Mystery of Writing Mediums Explained—Speeches by Prof. Matthews, Dean, Lambert and Others.

In consequence of the voluminous reports sent to the meetings of the Spiritualists in Metropolitan Hall, by THE TARIFF, during the past three weeks, the hall on Sunday was filled to overflowing by a large throng.

Mr. Dean, in opening the debate, said that he bowed in the phenomena of Spiritualism. That he bowed the wonderful things said to be done by spirits were actually done by them; but that they were the sins of Dabnova, or wicked persons. He gave a very beautiful argument, founded on physiology, the action, and the all-recurring phenomena in various days of persons possessed with spirits (Dabnova). This word, he showed, meant "possessed with the life of one deceased."

His discourse showed a thorough knowledge of the science writers, and more especially the early fathers, and he used a little too freely to be either rightly understood or appreciated.

He was followed by Prof. Matthews. Alluding in a general manner to the unfortunate circumstance of having a name nearly similar to that of an up-down wizard he did not wish anyone would think any less of him on account of it. He would occupy their time in showing up the mystery of writing mediums. This he said he could do best by telling them a little story. "A few years ago," said he, "I was engaged in my shop, and a friend came in and began telling me some stories about a writing medium he had seen, and knowing I was a sceptic I wanted my opinion. My opinion, said I, is that it is nothing. How can that be, he inquired? Look here, I answered, pointing to a man going past; you know I am personally acquainted with him; now you see how he looks to-morrow, at an old clock, and I will tell you precisely what he is doing. Instantly at 1 o'clock he appeared, and I, after looking to my hat for a moment, assured him that Mr. George was sitting in his back room in an easy chair, smoking a pipe and reading the Tribune. He made a slight bow for Mr. George's house and found him in exactly the position I had described. How did I do it? he inquired. I saw Mr. George the evening before, told him the fact I was in, and asked him to help me out, which he did, by telling me what he was in the bit of doing at 1 o'clock, and promising to do it that day sure." This the Professor held was the way other mediums did. He brought many names to prove it. He first any medium to allow him to apply any of the simple tests they did as gently with a confederate.

Mr. Lambert made an excellent speech, filled with wit and speaker got well mixed up in quoting Greek, and as alluded to own he had never studied it. Speeches were made also by Mr. Clark, Mrs. Hobart and others, and the Association adjourned till next Sunday at the same hour, when the fund amounting to \$11 will be given and the merits of the question decided.

EVENING DEBATE.

Sunday evening the debate on the resurrection of Christ, which has created so much interest at Metropolitan Hall, was ended by a discussion between Mrs. M. C. Hobart, spiritualist, and the Rev. Dr. Robinson, orthodox. Each speaker was given three addresses of fifteen minutes each. Mrs. Hobart is well known as the Chaplain of the late Wisconsin Heavy Artillery (Lion English), and in consequence of the Hall was filled. The discussion was a review of the old arguments which have been agitated for many centuries, and which are familiar to all. The manner they were presented, however, drew forth great applause. The knowledge of analysis in which Mrs. Hobart excelled, more than compensated for the antic-climatic of her opponent. During the two hours it continued, there was not the slightest flippant of interest, and at the conclusion many expressions of regret were made that it could not be prolonged.

FATAL RAILROAD ACCIDENT IN PENNSYLVANIA.—We learn the following particulars of a fatal railway accident from *The Chester Valley (Pa.) Union* Aug. 20.

AGE.	
Under 1 year.....	20 to 40 years.....
1 to 2 years.....	40 to 50 years.....
2 to 3 years.....	50 to 60 years.....
3 to 4 years.....	60 to 70 years.....
4 to 5 years.....	70 to 80 years.....
5 to 10 years.....	80 to 90 years.....
10 to 15 years.....	90 and above.....
15 to 20 years.....	Unknown.....
20 to 25 years.....	
Total.....	417

RESIDENCE.	
Austria.....	1
British America.....	1
England.....	8
France.....	2
Germany.....	4
Holland.....	1
Italy.....	1
Sweden.....	1
Switzerland.....	1
Unknown.....	2
Total.....	21

PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.	
Alms-house, Blackwell's Is-land.....	3
Bellows Hospital.....	1
City Hospital.....	1
Colored Home Hospital.....	1
Deaf Hospital.....	1
Jess' Hospital.....	1
London Hospital, Blackwell's Is-land.....	1
Total.....	10

WAGES.	
1.....	12
2.....	12
3.....	12
4.....	12
5.....	12
6.....	12
7.....	12
8.....	12
9.....	12
10.....	12
11.....	12
12.....	12
Total.....	127

The number of deaths compared with the corresponding week of 1864, and of last week, was as follows:
Week ending August 21, 1864..... 126 Decrease, 123.
Week ending August 14, 1865..... 419
From Acute Diseases..... 216
" Chronic Diseases..... 203
From Acute Diseases..... 25-622
Week ending August 21, 1865..... 207
From Acute Diseases..... 117
" Chronic Diseases..... 90
" External Causes, &c..... 20-617
Decrease this week..... 35
Children of native parents, 47; children of foreign parents, 40.

The number of deaths in the institutions, compared with the corresponding week of 1864, was as follows:
Week ending August 21, 1864..... 100
Week ending August 21, 1865..... 85
Decrease this week..... 15

The number of internments in Potter's Field, compared with the corresponding week of 1864:
Week ending August 21, 1864..... 42
Week ending August 21, 1865..... 45
Decrease this week..... 3

CITY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT:
New York, August 21, 1865.
The following is a schedule of the work of the Bureau of Sanitary Inspection in the abatement and removal of nuisances, &c., for the week ending August 19, 1865.

ABATEMENT OF NUISANCES.	
Complaints of nuisances received.....	108
Notices for abatement served.....	254
Nuisances abated, other modes.....	412
Stairs and water-closets cleaned.....	278
Locals of night soil removed from the city limits.....	1,051
Dead horses removed from the city limits.....	122
Dead cows removed from the city limits.....	12
Dead dogs and other such animals removed from the city limits.....	226
No. of barrels of coal removed from the city limits.....	4,376
Dumped, burned or otherwise disposed of.....	56
Noticed or removed from the City Limits.....	796
Total.....	3,060

Black.....	1
North Star.....	1
City.....	1
Metropolitan.....	1
New York.....	1
London.....	1
California.....	1
France.....	1
Germany.....	1
Italy.....	1
Sweden.....	1
Switzerland.....	1
Unknown.....	1
Total.....	17

Alms-house, Blackwell's Is-land.....	3
Bellows Hospital.....	1
City Hospital.....	1
Colored Home Hospital.....	1
Deaf Hospital.....	1
Jess' Hospital.....	1
London Hospital, Blackwell's Is-land.....	1
Total.....	10

1.....	12
2.....	12
3.....	12
4.....	12
5.....	12
6.....	12
7.....	12
8.....	12
9.....	12
10.....	12
11.....	12
12.....	12
Total.....	127

U. S. Iron Works, in full paid amount.....	100
Friendship & Paterson.....	85
etc, broke & in repair, etc.....	70
68, Inc. 13 20 signal with 1.....	42
Friendship.....	45
C. W. Ferris.....	11
Friendship.....	11
Har. 130, 4-2.....	11
Friendship to Smith & I.....	11
Friendship.....	11
pen, living.....	11
Friendship.....	11
and pen, L.....	11
Friendship & Paterson.....	11
U. S. Quartz.....	11
Friendship.....	11
hours, with.....	11
Friendship.....	11
con. we had p.....	11
U. S. Iron Works.....	11
13th Oct. v6.....	11
Friendship.....	11
13th Oct. v6.....	11

Decide whether you agree or disagree with each of the claims below. Then give evidence from the text to support your response and explain your reasoning.

<p>Claim #1: Freed slaves began to have new educational opportunities.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p>	<p>Evidence from text:</p>
<p>Claim #2: Former masters were fully ready and willing to grant equal pay and status to their former slaves if they agreed to work for pay.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p>	<p>Evidence from text:</p>
<p>Claim #3: Slaves received their freedom through kind release by their masters.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p>	<p>Evidence from text:</p>
<p>Claim #4: Black southerners understood the value of their own labor.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p>	<p>Evidence from text:</p>

<p>Claim #5: Slave owners missed their former slaves.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p>	<p>Evidence from text:</p>
<p>Claim #6: Slaves were eager to return to work for their old masters with pay.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p>	<p>Evidence from text:</p>
<p>Claim #7: Slaves missed their former masters because they felt they had lost family and structure with which they were comfortable.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Agree <input type="checkbox"/> Disagree</p>	<p>Evidence from text:</p>