



Smithsonian Institution

Freedmen's Bureau

Registers and Letters Received by the Commissioner, Letters Received, Entered in Register 6, E, May–Aug. 1866

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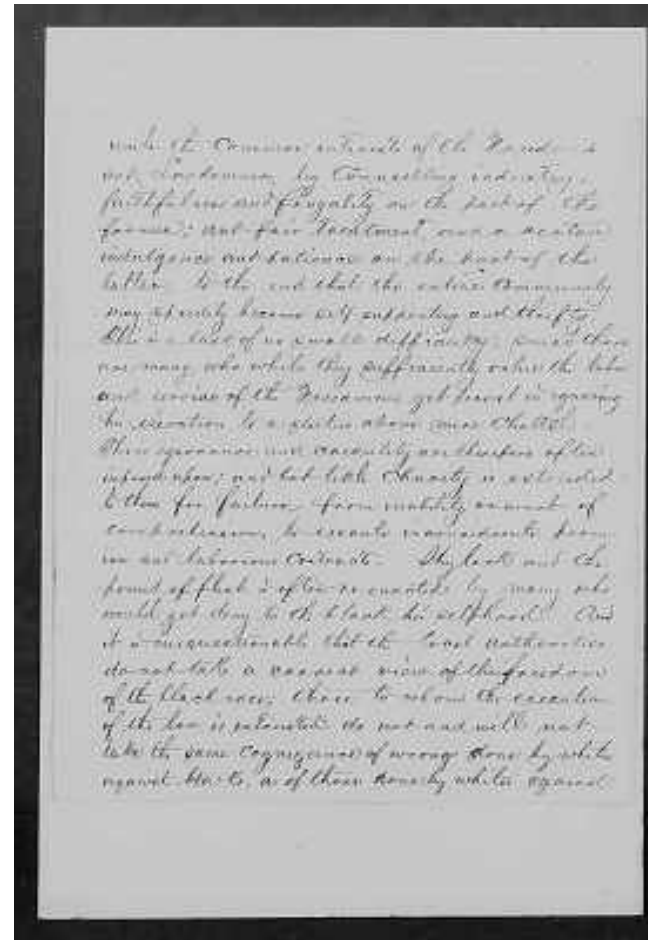
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unite the common interest of the Freedmen and Landowner, by Counselling industry, faithfulness and frugality on the hand of the former; and fair treatment, and a certain indulgence and patience on the hand of the latter, to the end that the entire community may speedily become self-supporting and thrifty. This is a task of no small difficulty, since there are many, who while they sufficiently value the labor and service of the Freedman, yet persist in ignoring his elevation to a status above mere chattel. Their ignorance and credulity are therefore often imposed upon; and but little charity is extended to them for failure from inability, or want of comprehension, to execute inconsiderate promises and laborious contracts. Shylock and the pound of flesh is often re-enacted by many who would yet deny to the black his selfhood. And it is unquestionable that the local authorities do not take a correct view of this freedom of the black race; those to whom the execution of the law is entrusted do not and will not take the same cognizance of wrong done by whites against blacks, as of those done by whites against



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