Galveston, Texas.
Sept. 17, 1870.

Dear Sir;-

I would like to have you make the trip to Brazoria Co. as you stated you would do. I will pay your expenses, Please write me ~~that~~ the fare from Houston to Columbia and to the different places so that I can make out an account for it. I think I can collect it. Of course I pay your board as well as traveling expenses on the trip. If you should be short of money to make the trip you can draw a draft on Wm. H. Sinclair for sufficient funds to make the trip. I have made arrangements with him and left the money with him. If you do not need the money before you return to Galveston you can call on him and he will pay you the amount expended as well as the bills for lumber and other material for the three school houses at Eden Lake, Chaney Prairie and Shiloh.

The object in going to those places is to see what the freedmen will do towards the building of the houses and to make estimates for the material for each place.

There are $ 250 for each place and the only difficulty you will have will be in making the thing come out even. Be sure and not make estimates too large. It would be better to have some money left for in such a case it could be expended on some of the other houses needing funds. You understand that $750 for the three places must cover purchases, transportation and all expenses the government makes. Louis W. Stevens has told me that the lumber would be sent up the Bernard river — that a boat could be chartered here to take it up, but Sinclair says it cannot be got up that way. He thinks it will have to be sent up the Brazos River. He has a boat here and if it is to be sent up the Brazos I guess his boat could be had to take it up. Be sure that you find out the best way to get the lumber up the county when you are there. If there is any possibility of getting it up the Bernard it would be best I think for it could be landed nearer the place where it is needed. I saw David K. Swift here to-day who used to teach at Columbia. He goes to Columbia to-morrow and I told him you were to take charge

of the matter. I think he and Wm. Jones (Colt colonel) will render all assistance required, or within their power.

I think they need but very small homes at those places or otherwise the amount of money would go but little ways. I presume the Freedmen may have some funds of their own. They ought at least to pay for putting up the houses. As I have never been there I do not know much about the condition of affairs.

Please write me at Austin regarding your success in the matter.

I think I shall leave for Austin on Monday - perhaps Tuesday, but shall go Monday if possible.

When you return to Galveston and make the purchases I would like to have the accounts made out against me as Supt. of Education and receipted so that I can use them as vouchers for the expenditure. Sinclair will pay all of the accounts. Also make out similar accounts for the transporting of the material from here to its destination. I think Scott and Jones will see that the material is taken from the landing on the river to the different places.

They ought to be able to get the freedmen who have teams to do that.

I paid Louis H. Stevenson $124 - the amount he expended on the cistern here - and Brown Bros. $49.60 for gutters and conductors. There is a balance of $26.40 yet due on the Galveston house. When you return here you can make out accounts against me for lumber to build the fence, receipt the same and send them to me at Austin and I will send you a check for the money. I believe you stated that there was only $16 due on the fence - the balance can be expended in such other repairs on the Galveston property as may be necessary.

I think you will be able to find out while you are in Brazoria county about what it will cost to get the lumber up the country. If you cannot you had better make a contract on your arrival at Galveston before making the purchases so that you will not expend too much of the money in purchases.

Yours,

D. E. Bartholomew

To.

J. O. Stevenson, Esq.,

Houston.