

Papers in the Case

"Atto. Genl., by information,
vs. W. L. Garrison, et al."

Trustees of F. Jackson,

1869.

ms B. 1.6 v. 10, p. 72

(Copy)

Newport, R.I.
Feb. 23, 1869.

Hon. Geo. Allen

Attorney General, &c

Dear Sir

I am in a manner one of your clients, being a Vice President of the "N.E. Branch of the Freedmen's Union Commission" for which you appear in the Francis Jackson will case.

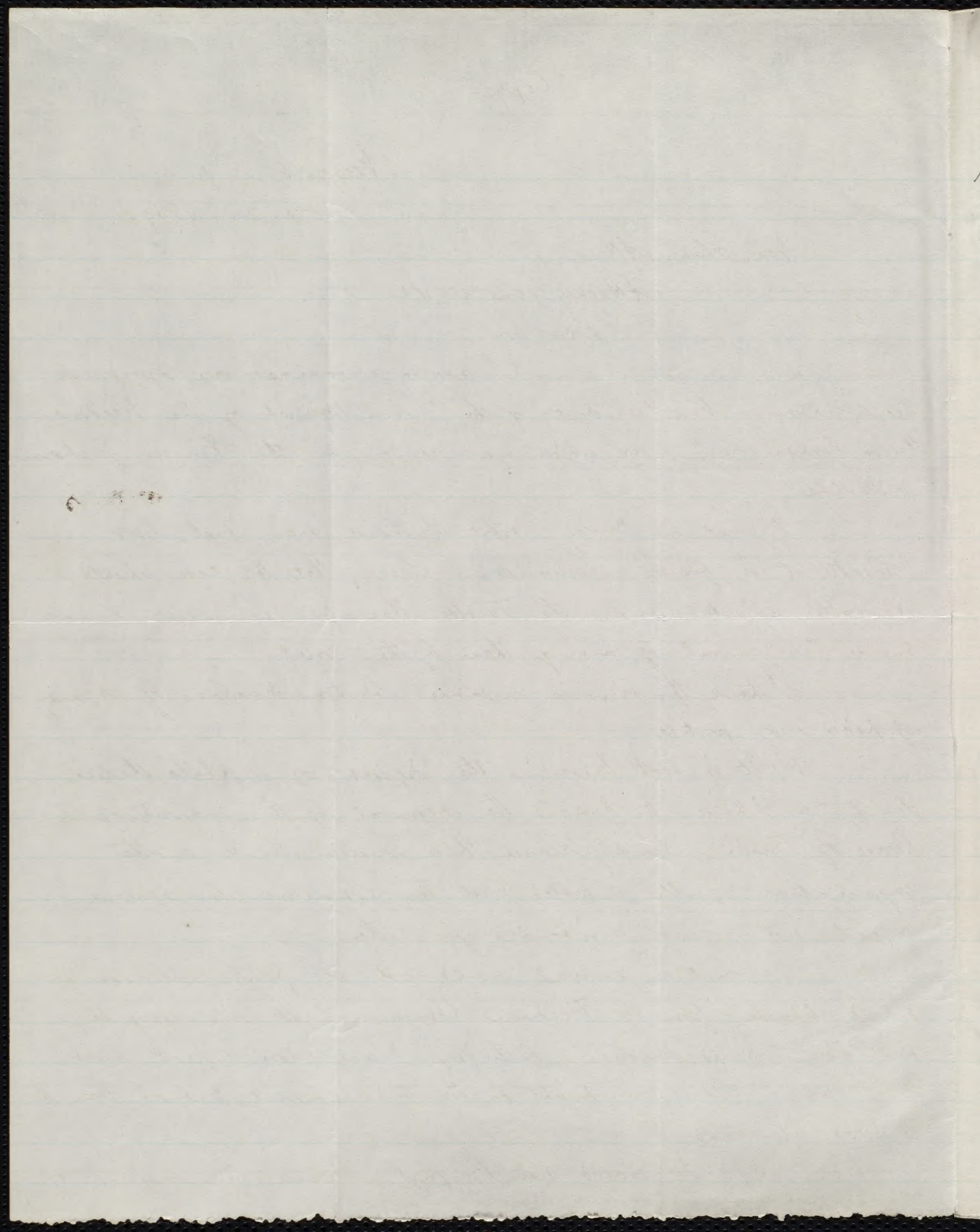
Permit me to say, what I think many feel, how desirable it is for the Commission itself, that this case should be amicably adjusted among the Trustees themselves, if possible, & not end in the removal of any of them by the Court.

I think this view is sustained by considerations of dignity of policy & of justice.

(1) It is not becoming the dignity of a philanthropic society, as I think, to demand the removal of the majority of a Board of Trustees, simply because these Trustees think another organization equally entitled with this Commission to share a bequest not originally intended for either.

(2) Such a removal would not be politic, because it would alienate from the Freedmen's Commission all who sympathized with these expelled Trustees, including many whose support might be of value. This loss might in the end amount to more than the \$5000 at stake.

(3) It would not be just, because the majority of



Trustees are evidently not acting factiously, but conscientiously, & many of the supporters of the Freedmen's Commission admit the truth of what these trustees assert; namely, that the organizations which aim to enfranchise the freedmen are as legitimately the successors of the Anti-Slavery movement as are the organizations which aim to educate them.

I am satisfied that the number of those who take this view is constantly increasing, & includes many who at first supposed that the work of Anti-Slavery societies & newspapers was ended. The ~~long~~ delay of reconstruction has made a great difference in this respect. It is my belief that the "Standard" was never better edited, nor more read than now; & I regard it as fully entitled by the doctrine of cy pres, to share the Jackson bequest with the society of which I am an officer.

I may add that I was well acquainted with the late Francis Jackson; & I cannot doubt that it would have been his wish that his bequest should remain in charge of the Trustees whom he himself appointed.

I write this entirely of my own motion, without the knowledge of any other party concerned. I should be very glad to have any use made of this letter which can promote the end I have in view, namely, an amicable adjustment.

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant
Thos. Wentworth Higginson

