

enlist the negroes, and let them perform their fair share of labor and fatigue duty, than keep them at hard labor—in many instances greater than they were subjected to by their former owners. I have always been satisfied that too many able-bodied men were permitted to follow our regiments. I shall go to Nashville to-morrow morning for a few days.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 L. THOMAS,
Adjutant-General.

[Inclosure.]

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HDQRS. COMR. FOR ORGANIZATION U. S. COLORED TROOPS,
Nashville, Tenn., October 10, 1864.

Maj. C. W. FOSTER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Chief of the Colored Bureau,
Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, D. C.:

MAJOR: In obedience to instructions from your office dated September 29, ultimo, I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of this office during the past year. In so doing I shall, for the sake of unity and to facilitate my work, commence with the

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