Toronto Canada West Jan 7 1863

To His Excellency Abraham Lincoln
President of the U.S.

Sir,

Having seen that it is intended to garrison the U.S. forts with coloured troops, I beg leave to apply to you for an appointment as surgeon to some of the coloured regiments, or as physician to some of the depots of “freedmen.” I was compelled to leave my native country, and come to this on account of prejudice against colour, for the purpose of obtaining a knowledge of my profession, and having accomplished that object, at one of the principle educational institutions of this Province, I am now prepared to practice it, and would like to be in a position where I can be of use to my race.

If you will take the matter into favorable consideration, I am given satisfactory references as to character and qualification from some of the most distinguished members of the profession in this city where I have been in practice for about six years.

I remain sir

Yours very respectfully
A.T. Augusta, Bachelor of Medicine, Trinity College, Toronto

(Transcript of Letter from Alexander T. August to President Abraham Lincoln, January 7, 1863, Courtesy National Archives and Records Administration)