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3/27/1852

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-001

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kent's Hill,

March, 27, 1852.

[This is Charles' first letter away from home. He was 13, born Aug 28, 1838]

Dear Mother,

I now sit down to tell you how I get along away from all of my friends, for I believe that I have never been away before except that some one of my brothers has been with me but I don't know but what I get along as well so far as though some one of my friends had been with me. I am situated in a pleasant room with a pleasant room-mate. I was lucky enough to get in with Mr. Hewet whom I was acquainted with before this I suppose Rowland informed you of. Anyone would hardly think but that if I am pleasantly situated I might be happy. But although I said I did not know but I prospered as well so far without my brothers with me, yet I do not feel so well, I feel sometimes home sick but not much. But this is nothing, I can't expect to be at home with my mother always, tho I should like to be. My health is the main thing for sure. It is as good as when I left home I think.

I like Mr. Torsey [Henry P. Torsey, Headmaster of Kent's Hill School] well as a teacher. I have not spoken with him since I saw him with Rowland at the Mansion. We have a blessing asked before eating always, and every night and morning Mr. Eaton reads from the Bible and asks someone to pray or does himself. I attend the singing school, the bill is so small that it will not make much difference, I believe it is but 50 cts. for 36 evenings.

We have had two or three snow storms since I have been here. There was a public meeting of the Calliopean Society [A literary and debate society founded in 1828] which I attended. The question was "Resolved; that railroad corporations are an injury to this state". I do not think that the Androscoggin RR. Co. has been much benefit yet. I don't know what it may be.

I should like to hear how Rowland is getting along, is he getting well fast or not? I have just been down to dinner, we had fish and rice to day. It is Saturday, we do not have to recite or study Saturdays, Many of the students go home. It would be much different if I could go home every week. I have declaimed once since I have been here. Rowland told you I suppose that I had purchased the right to read library books for half of the term for which I had to pay 18 cts, and also that I bought a lamp, when we were coming up, which cost me 17 cts. This is all the money that I have spent. My lamp is in my trunk, Mrs. Eaton furnishes the light, for one lamp and that is all that we use she charges 10 cts or five a piece. I don't think that I could furnish my own light any cheaper than that.

I have not been any further than the meeting house. I went to meeting last Sabbath all day. I heard Mr. Hawks in the forenoon and Elder Weber in the afternoon.

Tell Dellie that I want him to write me how the horses are, if the one is growing fat fast, and if he is getting much sap, etc. I suppose you will have to do without Mr. Gilbert soon, has he gone yet? and do you know who is coming on to our farm next year?

Whose farm have they purchased for the poor? I want you to write soon and tell me all about it. Has Uncle J. Leadbaetter [Jabez Leadbetter was the husband of Lucretia Howard, Charles's aunt] moved into Mr. Woodson's house yet? Is Grandmother with you now? If she is give my love to her.

I find the study of Philosophy very interesting. Mr. Torsey has examples to show us, of everything that our lesson is about.

Tell Dellie that Mr. Eaton has got a little boy eight years old who is in my class in Philosophy and Arithmetic but he never studied Philosophy before but he has always studied Smith's Arithmetic before this term.

Give my love to all. Was Rowland pretty cold when he got home? Write soon. Goodbye.

Your affectionate son,  
Charles H. Howard

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4/3/1852

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

CHH-002

Kent's Hill, Maine

Leeds, Maine

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Kent's Hill,  
April 3, 1852.

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Leeds

Dear Mother,

Another week has passed away. But I don't know as it has changed my circumstances much, if any. I rec with much pleasure a letter from Rowland and Rodelphus in which was enclosed one from Otis. I am glad that Rowland sent it to me. I want him to consider this as an answer to him just as much as tho' it were addressed to him. He did not say anything about Roland Alger's [Gilmore, Charles' step-brother] health, so I suppose he is getting well. I should like to know how your health is too.

I am as well as usual. I do not take my syrup as often as I did. Rowland spoke about wearing my boots. I wear them all of the time, up to recitations and in my room just as I did at home. I do not go out scarcely anywhere besides up to recitation. One morning I got up and took a walk or rather a run out on the crust as far as the woods, out south of the Mansion House before breakfast. Tell Dellie there was a little boy up there getting his sap and he gave me some to drink. He was about as large as Dellie. There was also a boy here a few days ago with sap sugar for sale but I did not buy any. He sold all that he had within five minutes after the students found out that he had any to sell. I have just been down to dinner and as it is the same day of the week as it was when I wrote before we had the same for dinner.

I get along well in my studies, I have got to addition of fractions, in ciphering, I am some in advance of my class. I cipher most all of the time; my other studies are so easy that I think that I might have taken another as well as not; but maybe that I shall have enough when the reading and writing classes commence; the reason why that the reading class did not begin before was because <> Mr. Torsey had such a bad cold.

I declaimed night before last, and today I suppose that I must write a piece of composition, I have not written any yet,

Charles Hutchins was at home last sabbath. He told me that Uncle Frank's wife [Fanny C (Gould) Howard, second wife of Benjamin Franklin Howard] was dead. I believe her death was expected before I came away. The two boys will go and live with their uncle again, I suppose.

I should like to know who was going to take Mr Gilbert's place on the farm. I am sorry that <Tister> is so sick I am afraid that she will never recover her health again. Tell Dellie to write me another letter when you write and tell me if he made any April fools. The wind is blowing hard to day but I am willing, as I have a hot fire in my little stove and my room being small too, it makes it quite warm. My room is situated in the northwest corner of the house and has two windows in it, one faces the west and the other the north. There is a little closet built in one corner of it. The furniture is four chairs and a washstand, a table over which there is a bookcase, and a little stand before the looking glass. I wear my old pants and vest most of the time. It snowed here yesterday, and cleared off in the evening, before I came from singing school.

There was a man had his arm broken and he had to have it cut off down to Fayette Mills. I believe it was in a shingle mill I am not certain. His coat caught in the saw and pulled his arm on to it. He was a poor man and had a large family to support. Mr. Eaton said he was in need of each day's wages to support his family. Mr. Eaton got one of the boys to go around to the rooms here in the Mansion and get money for him and they got more than ten dollars I believe and Mr. Eaton carried it down to him. We heard that George Smith and his son was in jail, or Mr Eaton said that they were. This I suppose you heard as quick as I did, and I suppose you have heard before this that Mr John Smith of Readfield Corner has had his store burnt, it happened before I wrote last week, he sold rum and they said that he went up into his chamber in the evening with a light, after some liquor and soon after his store was all on fire. They did not save anything but a little grass seed. There was no insurance on the goods, but the house was insured for a little.

I would like to have you send me a few letter stamps in your next letter if you have any to spare. When is Rowland going back to Brunswick? I wish he could (if he is not going away very soon) come up here and see me and bring me some more syrup but I don't suppose that he can. It has got to be April wood, but the weather has not advanced as fast as time. I believe that it is colder today than it has been this long while. The windows rattle like winter.

I want you to write me a long letter soon, Mother, about every thing at home. I was really glad to get a letter from my brothers, that evening, as it was just as dark I felt some lonesome before I got letters from all of my brothers. I think it must be quite a laughable looking thing to see a drawing of Rowland Bailey drawn by Otis. If I write composition to night it is time I was about it. So I will conclude by saying good Bye.

From Your Affectionate son, Charles  
C.H.Howard

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4/10/1852

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

CHH-003

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kent's Hill.  
April 10, 1852

Mrs. Eliza Gilmore  
Dear Mother,

Time does not wait and another week has passed on, and you find me again seated as you would find me were you to step in here now, at my table ready to write you a letter. I have not rec a letter from you yet. I think that it is about time, but I don't know how it is with you, you may have so much to do that you cannot get time to write and you may be sick. It is quite a pleasant day today the wind blows some but it is not cold, the sun shines brightly and melts the snow some. I should think that it would be a good sap day. My health is and has been this week as good as usual. There is but little left of my syrup, a few swallows, I wish I could get some more of it.

Samuel Perley is here at school and I did not know it until last night. I thought he looked a great deal like Peleg, but I did not speak to him until last night. He was quite surprised when he learned who I was. He said his folks were well, he said his father had sold his farm. Today Samuel has gone up to his uncle's, he lives up in Fayette about three miles from here.

Tell Rowland that there was a public meeting of the Calliopean society last night. The question for discussion was Whether it is justifiable for the United States to interfere in the affairs of Hungary and Austria if Russia does, that was the import of it. I cannot report exactly the words, Mr. Larabie was one and French the other disputant. We had a lesson in singing this forenoon. I suppose that I shall be obliged to buy me a singing book, had I better buy one? I believe that we have not got a dulcimer at home, besides Elizabeth's. Do Rowland and Elizabeth sing much? I thought that the time would pass very slowly here and that it would be a long time to stay here the whole term, but it don't seem but a little while ago when I was sitting here in the same place a week ago.

I got up this morning about five o'clock and went with Mr. Hewett to hear his class recite in Geography. It would suit Dellie to study Geography the way they do here, They have great maps so large that one state on them would be as large our little atlases. There isn't any printing on them at all and some of their lessons are to sing or chant the bodies of water and others the Capes and Mountains. There are two boys here that went to school with Otis up to E. Livermore. Their names are Baldwin. I am some acquainted with one of them he is a real clever fellow, tell Rowland that I saw Mr. <Levant> last night, he told me to tell Rowland not to eat too much sap molasses for it might hurt him, Mother I want you to write me if you are well, if you are sick of course you or someone else will. Give my love to all. Tell Dellie to write.

From your affectionate son Charles

[New page]

Dear Mother

I thought when I left off, that I should not write any more, but I have some time now, it being Sunday eve. The sun has just sat. It has been quite warm today, and the snow has gone off fast it seems like spring, to see the bare ground. We don't see any sleighs, but wagons there is not many of either. I have been to church all day Mr. Yager <approached> a man from Winthrop, whom Mr. Eaton changed with. It has got to be so dark that I can't see the lines and I must stop. I should like very well to be at home a little while tonight or hear from home. I get along well in my studies, as well as I can expect and that is what I came here for. Give my love to father R.B. and Dellie. Tell R.B. that Mr. Hewett is busily engaged in writing compositions.

From Your affec son,  
C . H . Howard

P.S. I have not written so well as common I believe this time.



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4/17/1852

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs E Gilmore

CHH-004

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kent's Hill,  
April 17, 1852

Dear Mother,

Another Saturday has arrived and nearly passed for it is now the last part of the day. Quite a pleasant day it has been for the sun has shown brightly all day. Although it has not been very pleasant for a few days back. It snowed fast day all day and all night so we did not have a very pleasant time. I went to meeting in the forenoon at which I heard Mr. Weber give a short address and also a paper read by Mr. Robinson. They organized their Sabbath school fast day too.

I rec two letters from home last Tuesday one from you and the other from Rowland. I was very glad to get so long a letter from home Rowland wrote me considerable news.

I did not have very pleasant news from Adison nor so bad as might be, for his life was much endangered, but I believe there was no one injured. I read the whole account of the wreck in the N. Y. Tribune. It appears that those of the passengers who have not got a chance to go to San Francisco are suffering there at Acapulco now, for I saw in the Bst Argus that they had to depend upon the goodness of travelers for what they had for they had no money.

I was glad to hear that the railroad was going to be finished, and I have always been in hopes that it would be built. Although most of the folks did not wish to have it go, most of the folks in Leeds I mean, I suppose Father has more hopes of it now, that Dr. Hilbourn is turned out for he used to say that as long as Hilbourn was one of the directors that the road would not go. I am sorry that father cannot get any body to <work> on to the farm, for it will make hard work for you & I guess rather hard work for him to do the work on <both> farms. My health is pretty good now I do not cough a great deal although I do some. I had a pain in my side last Wednesday & Thursday and I got some cayenne pepper and rubbed it after which it felt better and I got some molasses and mixed it with sassafrassum and water & took some of it when I coughed.

This forenoon I went to a sing & I went to hear Mr. Hewett Geography class recite. We have quite a large class in singing. We sing in the books now and have got so that we sing tunes in four sharps. I have bought me a singing book. I hope you will send me some syrup as you spoke of for mine is just about all gone. Tell R.B. the Club here on the Hill have gone over to east Readfield to organize one over there. You asked if the students enjoy very good health. They do not very they must all have colds. My chum has had a bad headache this two or three days. It is now growing dark and I will stop. I hope you will write me soon and write as long letter as you did before. Give my love to Dellie, father & the rest of the family. Remember me to Silas & the girls. From your affec son Charles

Mrs. E. Gilmore

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5/1/1852

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

CHH-005

Kent's Hill, Maine

Leeds, Maine

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May 1, 1852.

Dear Mother,

I once more take my pen and sit at my table on a Saturday afternoon, to address a few words to you. I have not written since two weeks ago. I thought that I would not write home last Saturday, for I had not had any letter from home since I wrote before. But I rec a letter day before yesterday from Rowland. I was glad to hear how things were passing at home. He said that Mr. Benjamin Gilbert was coming into our old house. I believe that I don't know him.

I suppose that Dellie had a good time last night for it was May night. There was a May basket hung on almost every door in the Mansion, There was one hung on our door for Mr. Hewett but he was not here. He went with several others to organize a Watchman's Club, up to Fayette's corner. He started away from here just after praying. There was twelve that were organized into a Club. I believe that I wrote you about his going over to East Readfield to organize a club. Tell Rowland that Mr. Hewett is trying to write a piece for the Calliopean.

I wrote a letter to Otis last Saturday. I should like to hear from him much. It has been a great while since I heard from him directly. Mother I am afraid that you will have to work very hard this summer, for you had to work so hard last summer that you didn't have any time to go any where, or say any thing. My health is pretty good & I get along well in my studies I enjoy myself pretty well for there is a good lot of boys here. I suppose that I don't study enough but I like to play some for exercise. Tell Rowland that Henry French has got married and is going out west to live. I have forgot the name of the lady that he was married to. I played ball most all of the forenoon today. Mr. Torsey was out playing ball. It was quite pleasant weather this forenoon but it rains this afternoon. It seems more and more like Spring, the snow is gradually melting away and the roads are becoming dry. It will soon be good waggoning. I saw a Swallow today for the first time this year, I don't know but I wrote you before that I was attending writing school. I lik Mr. Perley, the writing master very well. He gives us a kind of lecture every day while we are writing, sometimes on Perseverance and sometimes on something else. He has mottoes, if that is the right name, hung up in the room as You can conquer by perseverance, Excelsior, I will try, etc.

Monday morning, it was cloudy yesterday but did not rain. I went to church all day. Mr. Eaton preached in the forenoon and Mr. Clough in the afternoon. I went to prayer meeting last night. There is quite a revival in religion here on the Hill. There was several rose for prayers last night. There was quite a number that spoke and prayed. These prayer meetings here do not seem much like those down on the <river>. They don't need Mr. Brewster to tell them to improve the time. The sun is rising quite pleasant this morning. It is not very cold although Mr. Hewett is whittling some shavings for a fire. Tell Dellie that we have grand times here playing ball. Mr. plays with us when we play he can run faster than any fellow that there is in here. I have got into circulating decimals in my arithmetic. I don't know as you know exactly how far that is. Rowland will know. I have been here six weeks and have written five letters to you mother & have rec one, but I suppose you don't have time. Tell Dellie to write when you write, give my love to the boys and girls at home and to all.

How does the railroad get along are they laying the track. Tell Rowland to write often. I like to have him write he tells all the news. I must now leave off and go to studying. They are getting up a subscription among the students to buy a book to present to Mr. Torsey.

Write soon mother.  
From your affec son  
Charles H. Howard

To Mrs. Eliza Gilmore



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6/6/1852*From:* Charles H. Howard*To:* Mrs E Gilmore

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CHH-006

Kent's Hill, Maine

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June 6, 1852.

Dear Mother,

It is two weeks since I was at home. After leaving Rowland at North Wayne I came up across the pasture and was in a few moments on Kent's Hill. I got here in time to recite in Philosophy, but not in Arithmetic which made me two lessons behind the class but which I have about made up now. I lost the two last lessons in writing by going home. But they were not of much consequence. The prizes have been awarded for writing and bookkeeping. The one for writing was given to a fellow by the name of Hawks, from the town of Kennebec. The one for book-keeping was given to a Mr. Scribner from Rome, Mr. Torsey & Mr. Perley were the committee for examining the books. They could not decide who should have the prize in book-keeping, for there were two fellows whose improvement was so nearly the same that they could not give it to either, and so they had them draw lots to see who should have it.

There is a great time here now in making preparations for the exhibition. Those who are to take part have not done much besides writing and committing their pieces.

I was troubled all of last week by a sty on my eye I was swelled so that I could hardly see out of it some of the time. I couldn't see any out of it and so I couldn't study for it hurt the other one but I went up to my recitations. I don't know certain as it was a sty. It was a very bad one if it was. After it broke it began to heal very quick. It is now entirely well.

I have been to meeting Sunday both in the forenoon and afternoon. I have just been reckoning up my expenses and I will put them down so that you can see. I don't know exactly how much my bill is for wood and tuition. But I can guess pretty near. I thought that I would put them down in this letter for I don't know as I shall write again.

Expenses for Board	\$19.50
" " Tuition	2.25
" " Books	1.36
" " Wood	0.50
" " Lights	0.60
" " Singing school	0.50
" " Writing school	1.50
" A present	0.20
" " Cards	0.10
" " Glass	0.12
" " Lamps	0.17
" " Mending coats	0.20
" " Library	0.12
" " Envelopes	0.02
" " A letter	0.15
Total	\$28.14

You see that the whole of my expenses since I have been here is \$28.14. I wish you to send me \$25.00. I would like to have you come up after me if you could you and father. I think you would both enjoy yourselves, but I don't suppose you can come. If there is no one but R.B. comes I should think Dellie might come with him if you can spare him. The exhibition will be a week from next Wednesday and Thursday. They expect to have a king of <poetry> the night before exhibition. I don't know but I am as interested in my studies as I have been at all. We have got to Cube Root in Arithmetic. I never have been so far before.

Give my love to all.

Frm yo aff son Charles H. Howard

To Mrs. E. Gilmore



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8/29/1852

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

CHH-007

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kent's Hill,  
Aug 29, 1852 [Sunday]

Dear Mother,

I will now take my pen to write you for the first time since I left home. With gladness I rec a letter from you and Rowland Friday morning and thereby found that you were all well. There was two dollars enclosed in your letter which I did not know that you was going to send, but I am glad that you sent it for I may need it. I said to Rowland that I would write if I wanted any. As for the shoes I have concluded not to have any this term.

The dinner bell has rung & I will pause.

I have been to dinner. We have very good eating as good as any one could want for. This is a very good boarding place, I like it very much. We have a comfortable little room here. It is a west room and in the afternoon the sun together with the cooking stove make it very hot here. The chimney passes up through and sometimes it is so hot that you can barely have your hand on it, but this will be a fine thing in cold weather.

You spoke of Rollin Jennings [from Leeds, age 17, brother of Charles' roommate Roscoe], said that he was coming up here but the time that you wrote that he was coming has passed and he has not as yet arrived. If he should come and wish to come in with Roscoe very much I would find some other place. But Roscoe [age 19] says that he doesn't think that he would wish to room with him very much, if he could room near with some good boys.

You spoke of some writing paper, that was forgotten in the hurry that I was in when getting my things ready, but I have bought a half quire of such as I am writing on which cost me ten cts. You tell me if there is anything that I wish for that I can have it by writing. I think that I have got all that I need. I did not put in a tooth brush and I would like to have you put it my bundle if you send any. You know you was going to send me a shirt and a pair of stockings but I don't know as I shall need them.

I went to church this forenoon but there was no meeting this afternoon. There would not have been any this forenoon if Mr Robinson had not have read one from a book.

We had a long storm here this last week and I suppose it rained with you too. It began to rain I believe Wednesday night and rained until yesterday morning [Saturday]. I think that the rain was needed very much. Mr Robinson's turnips were all wilting for want of rain. Last Wednesday I was about sick. When I went to bed the night before I did not feel very well and when I got up in the morning I found that I had a very bad cold and my head ached pretty badly all day, but I slept it all away that night, and my cold is some better now.

It did not stop my recitations any. I have had to study pretty hard this week to catch up with the classes. In Algebra it was pretty hard for me to get along or in fact I did not understand it all untill I had gone back over the first part. I have now fairly caught up with the class in it. My Latin I like very much. I do not find much trouble in keeping up with the class and we have got to reading some little short lessons translating from Latin into English & from English into Latin.

Mr. Carpenter stayed here on the hill untill Tuesday. He came down here to see me Sunday evening and found a young lady here that he was acquainted with by the name of Wilber. She was about to put up her piano and so he tuned it for her. Tuesday morning he went with me up to Mr. Wheelock's and introduced me to Miss Wheelock. And I agreed to take half a course of lessons of her on the piano, which will be 3 dollars and to practice every day an hour which will be about a dollar. Mr. Carpenter thought I had better take lessons. I took one lesson yesterday. She is quite a pleasant lady. It has been raining some this afternoon but I believe it is clearing off.

I should like to be at home a few hours tonight and see my mother and the rest of them. Give my love to Dellie & Rowland & tell them to write. Tell Dellie he must write me a good long letter to put in your next

which I hope will come soon. There is quite a breeze tonight. The sun went down a few minutes ago.

I suppose that Roland Silas & George are about to milk now. Tell them I hope to see them to camp meeting. Dellie must write what they are doing. You must write me how they are getting along with the Rail Road. Have you heard anything from Otis since he left? Oh, I almost forgot to tell you that it was my birth day yesterday [28 August 1838] which made me fourteen. I should like to have been at home my birthday, Write soon Mother

From your Affectionate son,  
Charles H Howard

Eliza Gilmore

P.S. I tore the top of my cotton stockings this morning putting them on. I believe you cautioned me about it when you gave them to me.

I have no envelopes but they don't cost much.

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9/19/1852

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-008

Kent's Hill, Maine

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[written in a different handwriting at the top of the last of 4 pages]

Charles Sept 19, 1852

Kent's Hill.

Sept. 19, 1852 [Sunday]

Dear Mother:

It is Sabbath day to day and I am quite lonesome while my chum is gone. Especially since meeting. I suppose there is no need of my writing while Roscoe has gone for it is likely you have seen him by this time, I should not have written tonight but I thought he would not tell you all that I wished to. If I had have thought that I was not going home myself I would have sent a letter by him, but I thought that I should go until it got to be too late to write a letter. I thought of going down to Arza's [Lothrop] Friday night and then of walking home in the morning and even got all ready to go, but changed my mind and concluded not to go. One thing why I changed my mind was I had not written to you anything about it & I thought you would not expect me home so soon after seeing Rowland at Camp meeting and not saying anything to him about it. Another reason was I thought I should want to go home again before the close of the term, if I went home now. One reason why I wished to go home now was to get my flannels & great coat for it has been very cold the past week until yesterday when it was quite warm & pleasant and it has also been warm today. If it is as warm next week as it has been today I certainly shall not want my warm clothes. And if it is not, I can be without them as well as not until next Saturday when I will come home if I do not hear any to the contrary from you by Roscoe or by letter in answer to this or something else prevents.

Supper bell has rung.

I have eaten my supper of bread & butter & pie. We have good living here. Perhaps Mother you will come up to see me and bring my things as you spoke of before I came away. I should like very much to have you. I suppose I shall hear by Roscoe about that, but you may not see him. If you don't I hope you will write, but after all I don't know as you can mail it so it will get to me before Saturday. Well now mother I think you will care if I come home Saturday. But I should think I had said enough about coming home, I presume you will think I am homesick but I am not. I am as well <suited> this term as I was last. I do not play as much but study more.

I do not believe you have heard from me since I left Rowland at Camp meeting. At least I have not heard from you. And so I will tell you how I got back to Kent's Hill. After leaving Rowland I went and found Roscoe and found that he wished to stop the evening so I stopped and heard another sermon which closed about ten o'clock. I then started with Roscoe and another fellow to walk home on to Kent's Hill. We arrived here at twelve o'clock pretty tired and sleepy. Soon we went to bed and slept soundly all night and got up in the morning to go to studying to make up what we had lost.

I have just made another pause in my writing to run down the road and get the cows for Mrs. Robinson. They have been gone ever since last night or yesterday morning. I believe Mr R- has been & is now out looking for them. He doesn't know that they have come. It makes me think of our losing our cows this summer. There is a great many things which transpire every hour which make me think of home.

I have received a letter from Otis. It was written the ninth the day that I went to camp meeting he did not write but that he was well. Perhaps you have heard from him since that. He gave me a description of his journey <on> there after leaving father & Rowland at the depot. He did not describe it only as far as N.Y. city said he would finish in his next. I was quite glad to hear from him.

If you have heard from him since, mother, I shall learn if I come home or if I do not come home. I want you to write to me. You did not write a very long letter the last one mother and I believe the only one that I have had. And you did not seem very happy but I hope you are now. I suppose you had not got over the bad feelings that you had in parting with Otis for so long a time & perhaps you missed me a little too. At any rate I miss my mother if she does me or not.

It seems to me that I can see Dellie tonight - laying on the back side of the bed as you wrote that he was

the night after I left. How is Dellie and what does he find to do all of the time! Give my love to him & tell him he must write and answer for himself to put it in your next letter. I wrote a long letter to Otis yesterday as much as I could get on to a sheet. I studied until about eleven o'clock yesterday and then wrote to Otis until noon when after dinner I went up to the P.O. to see if I could not get a letter from home but could get none. I then came back and wrote till two which was but a little while & then went up to take another lesson on the piano. She (Miss W) had callers then and so I waited & when I got back it was four o'clock. I then finished my letter, went into class meeting (which viz I never did but once before in my life & that was when I stopped down to Warren's that long time you know a whole week) I came back from meeting, wrote in my journal (which viz I do every day) I have averaged a page a day ever since the first of Sept. Then I went to bed and slept alone & soundly all night long.

They had their quarterly meeting here today. This forenoon our minister Mr <Rimer> preached his text from the 2nd verse (or a part of it) of the 23d chap of Exodus. This afternoon, the presiding elder Mr Randal preached. His text was the eighth verse of the 3d chap of the Philippians. I suppose the boys have begun to cut stacks by this time & to go about the field work, haven't they. They told me they were digging a well, I hope they were successful in finding water for we need it much. If father has it as he spoke of it will be much better than to haul it from the spring so far.

The Church has bought an Aeolian of Mr Carpenter here at Kent's Hill. He came and brought it but did not call on me nor did I know that he had been here at all until two or three days after.

I get along very well in my studies have got to transposition in Algebra. Tell Rowland Scribere cito, et scribere multum. And tell him to translate <Latinus maynipere probo>. It pleases me much to think that I can write some to my brothers in Latin. Give my love to father are they going on well with the R.R.

Give my love to the boys Silas wished me to write to him but I don't know of any thing that would interest him. If there is any thing happens which I think he would like to hear I think I will write if I have time. One thing this term I am afraid that I don't take exercise enough. It is not as it was last term down there the fellows would run in and tell me I must go out and play ball or something else so I had exercise enough. It is getting late & I must leave a little room to write after Roscoe comes. Good night.

(Monday morn) Roscoe has come but I find that you have not seen him, he could not go to meeting. His folks were allmost all sick. I think as I have said that I will come home Saturday If there is nothing happens to prevent me. He says If I had gone with him I could have rode as far as Coffins Mills with a man who was going to Lewiston.

Please let the bad penmanship be out balanced by the quantity this time.  
From your affec son, Charles H Howard

I heard from Rowland through Roscoe. Rollin saw him going to the Scot & Groken club, but is all that I heard. Write mother if you can get a chance to send it so I can get it before Saturday.

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8/28/1853

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

CHH-009

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Mrs Eliza Gilmore

Kent's Hill Sun. Aug 28th 1853

Dear Mother,

The day that I named for writing you a letter has arrived. You were fearful when I left home as to my health, so I will assure you at first, that it is not often better than at the present time. My journey home & treatment there restored my health, excepting my cough, which the day that I left was rather bad, but has become most entirely well by the help of the thoroughwort.

It is the intermission between the afternoon & forenoon meetings. I heard Elder Prince sermonize this forenoon. His text was the 37 verse of the 37th Psalm. "Mark the perfect man & behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace." He showed the right way to become a perfect man and how to remain so, said a man could not be perfect unless he performed the requirements of God, that a man would not remain & was not a perfect man unless, if he had no necessary excuse, he attended the Celassce Conference & prayer meeting & also public meetings for worship if he did not have a family & also secret prayer.

But the bell has rung and I must delay the continuance of my letter till after afternoon meeting. Here I am seated again to continue my letter, having just returned from meeting.

'Tis about 3 o'clock; I wish to write a letter to Otis & also Rowland tonight, for I have lately rec'd one from each. Otis' Thursday & Rowland's Friday. Otis says "my health is pretty good." He was put under arrest Eight days ending week ago Friday. The Reason. Otis was Officer of the Day, & there was a party, he could not go owing to his duty as officer & one of his classmates did not wish to go for his sister & mother were there. So he (Otis) spent the eve with them. Just as the Commandant was returning from the party there was some loud singing in one of the camps and Otis was punished for allowing it.

Rowland says he shall be at home (as I suppose you have heard ere this), week from yesterday & wishes me to meet him at that time & stay over Sabbath with him as he expects to go to N.Y. the first of the following week. But he does not know of my being at home so recently. I should like very much to see him before he goes to New York, but I shall write him tonight, I think, that I have so lately been at home that I shall tire you all if I go again next Saturday, though I should like to go home every Sat & yet I think I ought not being as far as it is, I must always lose Monday's recitations & it is some trouble to come back again. I hope that Rowland getting home Sat. will come up here just after dinner Monday, if at no other time, & stay all night, going home again Tuesday in forenoon, by doing which, he will not lose much time & I shall be able to see him more than at any other time as he will stay with me all night.

When I got back last Tuesday, I found that Roscoe in my absence had agreed to go to Belfast to teach the Grammar school of that city, which is to commence the first Monday in September. His wages are \$40 a month & board himself. Board is from \$2.50 to \$3.00 a week at that place. He was engaged by Mr Craig formerly of Readfield, who has been & is to teach this Fall the High school of the same city.

I have just returned from supper, it was early tonight - on account of a Temperance Lecturer at Rdfo Corner. But I was writing of Roscoe. So I found when I got back (I did not think to tell Dellie) that I must choose my chum. I went down then & talked with Mr Eaton, he told me who I was to have for a chum - when Roscoe left. He was what we sometimes call a clever fellow, but not one whom I should like to have for a Roscoe mate. And I resolved secretly not to room with him if in any way I could make a change for the better, which I thought I could effect.

Mr Winter a good scholar & pious young man of 22 years of age had (as we studied the same studies, & agreed pretty well in every thing), before this, expressed a desire of having (& there is no other one in the Mansion with whom I would rather room than him) me for a chum. But he had a chum & roomed in the East end attic room - you remember we went into it - that I liked it a little better than the one that I took but could not have it because I wished to have a place for Roscoe & half this room was spoken for. Well Roscoe left yesterday in the afternoon. We had made no arrangements as to changing room then. But

both Winter & I were agreed as to rooming together if circumstances would permit.

I went to North Wayne on foot [about 4 miles] with some other boys, to a Temperance meeting to hear a speech from Mr Murrel cand. for Gov. [probably Anson Peaslee Morrill] Soon after R left & when I got [back] it was raining & after dark. I eat my supper (was warmer after changing my clothes and did not get cold)

Then we boys who were interested had a consultation as to changing rooms. & Winter's chum, whose chum (viz) is Lathrop, from St Albans, a nephew of Veranus [Veranus Lathrop was a resident of Leeds in 1850]. Lathrop was kind enough to go into my room & let me come in with W where I now am. This is a much pleasanter room in the morning than my old one.

Dellie told you I suppose that he & I made out first rate in riding with the Aeolian. I hope he had as pleasant a ride back as we had coming up. Is Dellie going up to Y.B.'s school? Write me if Lizzie [Elizabeth Waite whom Otis married in 1855] & her mother have gone & if so where & when, & is Lizzie going to West Point.

Have Dellie write to put in yours & you write as soon as you can, Mother.

Remember me to our family, each one.

From your Affec. Son  
CH Howard

P.S. It did not take me long to make up my studies by applying myself snugly to them.



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9/23/1853

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodephus  
Gilmore] & Aurilla

CHH-010

Kent's Hill, Maine

Thomas School

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Kents Hill Sept 23, '53

My dear brother: [Rodelphus]

I was very glad to receive your letter last Monday afternoon. I hope you will continue to write first because I am so glad to hear from you, how you prosper for the first time away from home, from your kind mother. Do you not miss her untiring attention! And second because I wish to hear how fast you advance in your studies, how you like to study & how you study, since all you acquire now, even this term at Thomas School, will never have to be learned again, since your taste is an important index by which we are to judge of your education or of what it is to be. And your habits the most important of all your qualities as regards your education & future life. You must do your best Dellie, to cultivate habits of study now when you are just beginning & they will never leave you.

But this is not interesting. You will be better pleased with my own affairs & Kents Hill news &, no wonder, so should I. These thoughts were suggested to my mind so I have written them. You see by the date, that today is Saturday. You know we have no recitations Sat. & we usually devote this day to writing compositions & letters. Committing to memory pieces for declamation, reading, exercising & getting lessons for Monday morning, and besides these I ought to devote 3 hours to for a blowing on the Aeolian. My teacher says so, but I never get near so much time. I find that it is now after 11 o'clock and I certainly have not practiced any yet & am not likely to this forenoon as I wish to finish my letter to you.

I rose this morning at half past 4 o'clock as I had instructed the Watch to call me at that time. I suppose you know what I mean by the Watch, as I wrote all about it in my last to mother. (We are all obliged to take our turns in watching.) By speaking to the person who is to sit up through the night you can get up at any hour you please. In the morning before breakfast I "got out" my Caesar lesson. Then as some of the students wished to pitch quoits, I did this a while, for the exercise. Then I wrote some on the question which I was appointed to discuss at the next private Calliopean meeting. Thus passed the forenoon with what I have written to you included for now I have eaten my dinner.

I must try & get time this afternoon to write a composition. We, like you, as I have before informed you are obliged to declaim & write composition. Mr Torsey hears & trains us on declamation & Mr Robinson takes our compositions. There are two general divisions of the declaimers & two subdivisions. Those who have been here before this term & are not very poor at speaking are called "Public Declaimers" & declaim every second Friday before the whole school just before prayers (which we have every afternoon at the close of the recitations.) There is a "Public Declamation" every Friday, because there are so many that they are obliged to make a subdivision so that one half "come on" at a time. The others that speak in the other general division, are called "Private Declaimers" and declaim every Thursday eve. the Ladies not being present. Those whose names begin with letters before H one night & all names after that the next. And all those who are not in the Rhetoric class or do not write other compositions are obliged to write the same, alternately as they declaim. No one is exempt from this regulation, except the ladies. The pieces are given to Mr Robinson corrected, then returned.

Dellie, give my love to William. Tell him if I could get time I should like to correspond with him. My love to Larch Krank also Mr Barrows & wife. When you write again please tell me the result of the law suit in respect to L Lothrop & C. I hope you will have time to write that you are getting on so well in your studies. You see I have written this very poorly penmanship. You have more time, this is why you can do & will take more pains & try to write better. You must write much better than I. Please write as often as you can. I suppose you were at home today. I shall fill the sheet to Aurilla. Remember me as Your Affec brother. Charles

Saturday Afternoon

Dear Friend Aurilla:

I was very much pleased to have you add even a page to Dellie's letter & should have been glad to have had two. I am glad at any time to receive a letter from a friend & school mate. I am glad you are enjoying good health & spirits & are liking your school this fall. But I suppose you lose some advantages that you would have at Topsham or Kents Hill. These of course you will have if you have your health & life spared at another time. There are some reasons why I like Kents Hill better than Topsham. One, at Kents Hill one has the benefit of a literary society conducted by the students for mutual improve & a large (that is, for an Academy) library. There is a public meeting of this society every other Friday Evening, when the ladies & citizens are present. The private meetings are also held Friday even. No one is admitted to these meetings but members of the society. Its name, by the way, is the Calliopean, which is usually shortened by the students when speaking of it to Calliope. We had an interesting public meeting last evening. Perhaps a description of it will be as interesting as any thing I could write. First the society was called to order by the President - or rather the vice-president - the president Mr Torsey being absent. Then as usual there was a declamation by one of the students. Then a dissertation. This last night was by J. A. Winter my room-mate. His subject was Socrates. He wrote fifteen pages & a half. Next the discussion of the question Should Cuba be annexed as one of A - U.S.A. At first there is a speaker on each side of the question who writes his piece. Then the discussion is carried on extemporaneous, this question was decided in the affirmative by four majority. After this we had a paper. Taking our paper here in general it far exceeds the one at Topsham, although there were some good pieces on theirs; & here they have a Gentleman's paper which is read by one of the editors (for they have three) & the Ladies paper is read by their editoress. Then the Calliope was closed by another declamation. And this is the usual manner of procedure. I have written this evening, much confusion, Aurilla, & very fast so you must'nt expect it to be well writtn or any thing else. I should be pleased to have you write again & soon.

From you friend, C.H. Howard

P.S. I am glad to hear that Temperance is increasing & prospering in Leeds. I believe it has triumphed in the election.

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9/30/1853

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-011

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kents Hill Sept 30, '53

My dear Mother,

I have but little time this morning, as I have a lesson to get but if I did not mail my letter this morning you would not get it tomorrow. I have thought I should go home to-day but am appointed to discuss the questions of tonight's Calliopean meeting so I am not.

I should like to go home for some news that I would rather tell you than write. It is this I have been seeking to have my sins forgiven, seeking to get religion, & I have faith that God has forgiven men, through Jesus our Lord, & I mean to live a Christian life. I wish your prayers Mother that I may do so. I have not been under the influence of excitement nor any very deep conviction for I have for a long time been thinking of the subject. But I prayed and in the class meeting asked that the Christian friends would pray for me. Last Sunday I began to believe & since then my faith has increased. The Savior says Ask & have faith & ye shall receive. Write me soon mother what you think of this.

I should like to have gone home also to hear about N.Y. & Otis. But at the close of my Greek recitation last Monday Mr Robinson handed me a bundle & said my mother gave it [to] him, told me that Rowland came Saturday from N.Y. Otis was well, that you were all well.

I was real glad of the peaches. Chum & I ate the best ones yesterday. Chum, is going to leave me next Monday. Then I shall not have a pious one.

I have got to have a pair of thick boots. This is one reason why I wish to come home. I don't know but Melvin could make a pair without measuring my foot as he has measured it so many times. I think no. five would suit. If he thinks so I wish he would make them so I can have them next Saturday, as my thin boots or one of them is ripped near the sole and so with my shoes. I think I shall come home next Sat a week from tomorrow if nothing happens to prevent.

Has Rowland gone back to Brunswick? I recd a letter from Dellie & Aurilla last week. I answered it Saturday, so I did not have him to write you. I hope you will write Sunday, & Mother give my love to Dellie & tell him if at <home> to put in half sheets as I suppose you will fill some whole ones. How did Lizzie withstand her journey & did her mother go too. Give my love to all the family. I cannot write any more. My health is good. It's pretty cold now. We had a fire yesterday.

From your Affec Son  
CH Howard

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10/30/1853

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* R. H. Gilmore

Brother Dellie

CHH-012

Kent's Hill, Maine

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R.H Gilmore  
Kents Hill Oct 30th 53.

Dear Brother Dellie:

It is half past three o'clock in the morning & I have risen to answer your good long letter, before that I shall be obliged to study. I rose at 3 by requesting the watch to call me, & I find it has taken me a half an hour to get dressed & build a fire, so I have but about a half an hour to write to you, for I shall be obliged to study Greek at 4; but you know that I write pretty fast. I think Dellie you are advancing excellently in your studies, you did not say when school will finish. I hope it will last a fortnight longer. I will now pause & perform your questions in Arithmetic if I can.

The first one you say is the 22 under Les[son] XXII but I suppose you mean under XXI about the box for there is no Les[son] 22 in Vulgar Fractions. It is a fact that if you multiply three sides of a box together it will give the solid contents. Then  $10 \times 8 \times 6$  the 3 sides will give the solid contents of the first named box, which you find is 480 ft. & the con[tents] of the second is found in the same way. The three sides of this measured 8 feet each so  $8 \times 8 \times 8$  is the solid contents of the second which is 512. The one subtracted from the other of course will give the difference of the size.  $512 - 480 = 32$  Ans.

Now the 13th XXXIII Dec[imal] Frac[tion] is a more difficult question. But I have performed it. First it is a truth that if you multiply the length of two sides of a surface it will give the Area or contents of the surface. In the operation first reduce the length, width & height of the room to inches for convenience. Then as you know there is 4 surfaces to the inside of a room 2 ends & two sides. The contents of these you wish to find. The length of a room & therefore of a side is 174 inches & the height is 105. These multiplied together gives the contents of one side = 18270 & there are two sides to be prepared so multiply this by two = 36540 inches. Multiply also the width 150 by 105 = 15750 x 2 because there are two ends = 31500 inch + 36540 = 68040 inches the cont. in inches of the whole room. Divide by 144 & then by 3 & it will give the area or contents of all the sides in yds = 52. In div. by 144 I get 472 &  $72/144 = \frac{1}{2}$ .  $472 \frac{1}{2} \div 9 = 52 \frac{4\frac{1}{2}}{9} = 52 \frac{1}{2}$  yards.

I am glad you declaimed & write compositions for now is the time to begin, if you keep on writing often you will soon get so you can write a very good one, for practice makes perfect. I was real glad to get the news you wrote & to have you write about your good times, but for one thing I was sorry & that was that I should find in your letter that Mr Barrows is sick, but I hope he's well by this time. I will not ask you about anything for my term closes next Friday night - so I shall go home Sat. & see you. Study persevere. This is right hardest when you have anything hard to study.

From your most affect bro  
C.H. Howard

P.S. I had a letter from Otis a short-time since. He is well

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11/1/1853      *From:* Charles H. Howard      *To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-013                      Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kent's Hill.  
Nov. 1st, 1853.

My dear Mother,

I have not a great deal of time to spend in writing you a letter but then I am obliged to write, for it to go out in the mail tomorrow morning. I was very glad to get so long a letter from my mother last Thursday. It is the first long one for the term and the second letter of any kind but then I have been home so often that you have not had need to write. First before replying to any of your letter I will tell you when I shall come home or when I wish you to send for me. School will finish next Friday night so I should like to go home on Saturday. Perhaps if nothing happens to prevent, whoever comes for me can get here early enough to go back as far as Wayne before dinner. I wish Father to send money to pay the following bills;

Mr. Eaton's for Board, wood, &c.	\$20.00
Mr. Torsey's for Tuition. about	\$ 5.00
“ Books “	\$ 2.00
Miss Wheelock's for music lessons	\$ 6.00
Total	\$33.00

This is my estimate. I had about concluded not to take a school this winter before I recd your letter, especially as we are to have a good teacher in our school at home. I received a letter from Otis a few days ago. He thought that I had better not teach this winter. This was the first I had heard from him since I wrote him about experiencing religion. He was very glad, he said it had been his prayer.

When I think of it I wish to be at home this winter, one reason for it is while I have an opportunity I want to spend all the time in the society of my mother that I can, another, I can study common branches and keep them familiar and read considerable of which I have much need and can practice considerable on the Eolian & I can also help my brother Dellie's history course. I always enjoy the society of my mother & therefore at her home and my home I am contented. I now like to have you write about religious subjects perhaps more than ever before. I think we should submit to the will of God in all things and when we ask any thing try and not ask anything incompatible with his will.

I must go to bed so I cannot write any more. Good night, Mother. I must read and kneel before I retire. I suppose you remember that my Eolian is to be carried home but the wagon can be sent with the seat the same as at other times. I think I shall need a cord to bind on my trunk with Eolian.

From your affectionate son.,  
C.H.Howard

P.S. If I get a dictionary, I want \$5.00 more. I believe Mr. Torsey has some.

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3/16/1854

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

CHH-014

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kent's Hill March 18th, 1854.

My Dear Mother,

My first week at school is coming to a close; It is nearing Saturday night, and I have a few moments which I intend to devote to writing you a letter. But before I proceed farther wish to ask a few questions. Did Dellie arrive at home safe & sound the same day that he left me? Did he have no trouble in driving the colt in the snowstorm? And did he get the Scions? For I found when he had gone that I had not let him have the money. I felt sorry and ashamed of myself but to no purpose. The man told me he should ask about a four pence. and you let me have 30 cents. I should have let Dellie take it if it had not slipped entirely from my mind. And who were my letters from that father took? I suppose perhaps one was from Rowland. Was you not tired at the close of the day that I left, when the excitement of fixing me off had worn away? And to close my queries, Are you all as well in body, mind & spirits as you were when I left?

Well, perhaps something about my situation would interest you now. Dellie told you, I suppose, that I found Winter awaiting me at the Mansion with the room ready for my reception though rather a poor one, yes so it was. And I remained there with him till yesterday morning, when he went with his sister to Mr. Torsey's to board and I moved in with Bartlett Frost, Harriet's brother, whom you know I have always been acquainted with. The room, which I am now in is the one I roomed in when I first came to Kent's Hill two years ago, & it is about as good a one as there is in the Mansion, being the North West Corner room in the second story.

Mr Winter had some disagreement with Mr & Mrs Eaton & so I lost my good chum for I thought I would not have my boarding place. After having stayed awhile, thinking it looked too much like unsteadiness & as I found I could have a good room & chum by staying. Frost is a good studious & steady fellow & is studying Greek with me. I like him well & always have, so I think I shall be contented to make the change. Although Winter is a very good roommate & pious fellow. Bartlett is in advance of me in Latin and helps me whenever I wish very pleasantly. He has been here all winter and has been studying Greek and Latin all of the time so Greek is more familiar to him than to me now, till I reviewed some, so he helps me some in that. But I have not found any trouble in getting my lessons yet, if I have not kept them in my mind this winter. Mr. Walsh is my teacher and I like him better as a teacher than I did Mr. Robinson. He makes his classes more interesting and lively, gives longer lessons and the scholars recite better ones. I began the first book of the Aeneid by Virgil. I have got my lessons for Monday today, 12 lines in Greek, & 28 in Virgil.

Mr. Torsey is at Augusta and is expected to remain there three or four months longer. I am obliged I find to pay two dollars per week for board whether I furnish my wood and lights or not, so I shall not, of course, furnish these. I shall keep any can & lamp & carry it home with me at the close of the term again. I am sorry the board is so high but it cannot be helped. My expenses will be more this spring than they have ever been before. I shall be obliged to buy me a Virgil and Lexicon but have not yet. I shall wait till I hear from Rowland, in meantime using Frost's, for perhaps he will send me one cheaper than I can get one here. They cost \$6.20 here. I wrote him a letter which I mailed Friday. I have but just returned from tea. I find that the wind blows too hard to allow me to go to class meeting, so hard that they will not have any. I wonder if it has blowed so hard down to Leeds. I think it has blowed as hard all day today & part of last night as it has before this winter excepting that dreadful New Years blow that we had the first of the winter. But the cold & wind have not affected me <> today for I have hardly been out of doors, & I have a good warm fire in my room.

Give my love to Dellie, Nancy, & Keatie & all the rest of the family. When I think of home each one comes up before my mind's eye. Tell Dellie to write me all about the Society meeting & the members, for this will not reach you till after their meeting. Tell him to tell them that I say, Each one must keep his pledge. Mother, I should like to have you write me a letter so that I may get it next Saturday a week from today, that will be most a fortnight since I left. If you cannot write a long letter, do write a short one if you can and let Dellie fill it up for I <guess> he can find plenty of material & time to write. How does he get on at playing on Aeolean? Has he learned Bethlehem yet? He must tell me. It was a hard tune. I don't think he can play it yet, but he will get it in a short time. And does he get his lesson in the Dictionary now? My paper seems to be filled.

Write, if you can Mother and remember me as  
Your Affectionate Son,  
Charles

Eliza Gilmore

P.S. Mother I wish you to write me when Grandmother's Birthday is. I have forgotten the day of the month. And tell me how Thomas is getting on with the measles. And how Florence is. And how is father's cough? My health is good.

Sunday. I have heard today Mother that Benj, John Perley's son, the writing master is dead. He died with the small pox. He was at school here last year. I have just written Otis a letter & am now going to prayer meeting.

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4/29/1854

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

CHH-015

Kent's Hill, Maine

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Kent's Hill April 29th, 1854

Dear Mother:

With much pleasure I received your letter dated 23rd yesterday. It was a good long one, such as I like to have from my mother. But it contained rather sad news, that of the death of Mrs. [Betsey] Turner [wife of Deacon George Turner]. It was unexpected as deaths usually are although we have had reason to expect it for a great while. I receive the news of the death of some one of the people of Leeds every spring while away from home at school & usually of more than one and those whom I least expect as being near their end. We know not who will be called first or last; how important it is that we should be prepared to go. There is no guardian against death.

I am at Kents Hill again today, instead of being at Leeds as I expected. The storm has prevented my being at home today, for I should have walked to Wayne last night & gone home this morning had it not rained. But now I shall be obliged to put it off another week, for I have already put it off once on account of the traveling, as I first intended to go home week before this last or a week ago yesterday at least I wished to go in particular at that time to get my singing book but I now have a chance to sing with one of the boys so that I can get along well enough as to that till next week.

But my coat is getting pretty badly off as to the elbows so that I am obliged to wear most of the time my best coat. And yesterday I tore the other against the door catch to add to the elbows. And I wish to get one of my boots mended as they seem to be the only appropriate articles I have to wear on my feet such muddy traveling as this. And many such little things I wish to get or get fixed. Besides this mother, for it has just entered my mind, I shall need to have some summer clothes before long (I hope). & I perhaps had better see you about these & make some preparations for obtaining them. If nothing more I think I shall want a coat, of some light material. And if the weather permits I think I will try & get home next Friday night or on Saturday, by that time it will be good traveling enough I suppose, so that I can be brought at least part of the way back, for I shall wish to return Monday.

I sent two papers to Rodelphus last Monday, but I suppose you did not receive them & would not receive them. Did they go directly there till after you wrote your letter, or one of them. I wrote that I should be at home as you I suppose know before this. This spring does not seem much like last, for long ere this when I was at Topsham the snow was entirely gone & I got some mayflowers the 20th of April. Now it is almost May & great snow banks are what greet your eyes when casting them out of the window. But Rowland writes that the streets are entirely dry & settled in Brunswick at this time, so I suppose that it is a warmer climate down there.

I have heard from him lately & have not yet answered his letter, but must do so the first opportunity I have. I also received a short letter from Otis the other day, the first I have received since I have been here. I suppose I can write you no news about them, as you mentioned having a letter from each of them. Otis speaks of having to study hard this spring, but gets along as well as usual.

Rowland writes about my attending school, where it shall next be, speaks of Yarmouth & says they are to have a new teacher, Mr Wiggins, there in the old academy. He also speaks of Andover Mass. Andover I suppose is a very good school but it is at a great distance from home, so that the expenses will be increased by traveling so far & I shall not be situated so that if am sick I can go home & be taken care of. I do not know but they will have a good school at Yarmouth under a new instructor but I certainly would not go there if the school is now what it was when I went there first. Then there was not much else but drinking, carousing, gambling, & playing at cards. Although there were a few who did not do this, but it was no place to go to get good knowledge. I am sure I do not know where to go, if it is better, as I suppose it is, that I leave Kents Hill. But I and you Mother have plenty of time to think of this matter between this & next September.

You speak of Mr Barrow's family; I have been intending as soon as the traveling will permit to pay them a visit in their new house & think I will go over some Saturday. It is I believe about 4 miles from here, but on a very hilly road.



I am glad Dellie is mindful of his absent brothers, certainly they will be glad to get a taste of the sap molasses. By trying to please them he shows his love for them & he must do those things which will please them most, which are improving himself as well as giving them good things. He must be a good boy, this will please each & all of his brothers. I shall see how he gets along at playing on the Aeolean if I go home next week. If he does not get to be a good player in the first six weeks he ought not to give up but keep trying one hour every day & he will have improved when I get home. Remember me to her as well as Katie & Roland Alger for you mentioned him as being about home. Give my love to Dellie & tell him to write me if you do or don't; if I am not able to get home next Friday or Saturday. This has been a long storm now & it still continues cloudy & foggy.

Your Affec Son,  
Charles.

Mrs Eliza Gilmore

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9/9/1854

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

CHH-016

Yarmouth, Maine

Leeds, Maine

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Yarmouth, Sept 9th, 1854

My dear Mother,

I have seated myself to begin a letter to you. It is now Saturday afternoon. I have been from home only about three days but it seems to me much longer. I had a pleasant ride in the cars though rather warm, having my nosegay for a plaything. I have it now but it has become rather dried. Always when my eye rests on it, it causes me to think of the morning I left, of the busy but happy time, and sometimes I wish I was back home again.

I found a pretty good room although not one I wrote for, that being previously engaged. Winter came a short time after I did and is rooming with me. Charlie Haines came Thursday morning. He is boarding at Mr. Wiggin's house but he has been in here much. I do not think I shall like him very much, but perhaps it will be different here after. We have no school today & I have plenty of leisure from studies this afternoon & as it has been a drizzling rainy day &c for some reason or other I do not feel very well contented. I suppose I am foolish to mention this for very likely in an hour I shall have no such feeling. So mother you must not be unhappy in thinking that I am so from anything of this kind that I write, for I always write & speak all my little feelings to you.

I was glad to hear it rain in the night for I thought how it was benefitting the farms & perhaps our farm among the rest. Has it rained yet at Leeds? I sent Rowland a letter yesterday inviting him to come up and pay me a visit & get his things.

I believe I was quite lacking for I have not found that I left anything by mistake or forgetfulness at home although something may turn up yet. Did you have a pleasant call at Mr Lothrop's the afternoon I left? And how does Otis & Lizzie spend the time. When one is at home it does not require <amusements> to give enjoyment & make him happy. I should like to have remained with Otis while he staid at home for I hardly it seems have seen him to converse with him this summer & I know not when again I can be with him. I hope you will enjoy your short <space> with him. I think of a thousand things to say now I am about.

It seems to me rather hard to have you all alone this fall with no one at home, when you take, I know, so much pleasure in having them with you. But Dellie I suppose will not stay many weeks after Otis leaves & I am glad that my term is only eleven weeks. I hope you will write me a good long letter soon, although you cannot get this till Monday or Tuesday. Perhaps you can write so as to send me a letter by Otis if he comes Monday. I suppose of course Otis will go back to Leeds again if he starts Monday if he is not obliged to get to his post till the 30th. For he would not wish to stay more than a week I should think in visiting, but of course he can make his own accounting. If he starts Monday noon with Lizzie, he will arrive here about half past 1 o'clock. The train stops 5 minutes four times & often not so long. There is another train which goes at half past 6. He can do as he thinks best about stopping till evening train. Perhaps if Lizzie is with him it would be better not to stay. But I shall expect him to come & stay over night with me on his way to Brunswick afterwards. I suppose you intend to send my drawers & overcoat, which if it continues as cold as it is today (Sunday) I think I shall need.

I did not finish my letter last night, but for the sake of getting warmed & a little cheered up, & for old acquaintance sake I together with one of my classmates called on Charles Nathins of Leeds as I had not as yet been to see him. He boards about half a mile below here in a private family. We had a pleasant call, talking over bygone days, when he & I went to school at Leeds Corner when I was 11 years old, telling me his whereabouts since that also.

I have been to Church today all day. I have just returned from a prayer meeting. This forenoon I attended the Baptist Church & heard elder Allen the same preacher that I used to hear when here before. This afternoon I heard the Congregational preacher. I think I shall attend the Baptist meeting & go into the Bible class this term.

The students boarding in commons this term are many of them pious and all steady, studious fellows, much better than those who used to be here. Several of them will be in my class in college if we all

continue to prosper. We have a blessing asked at the table and are to have a prayer meeting by ourselves on Tuesday evening.

I suppose Dellie is with you this evening & was last. I think of him much. I hope he will do well at Wayne in his studies & not follow the bad examples of the boys he may associate with either. Tell him to write me a long letter at the first opportunity.

Monday Morning

I have just dressed me & now hasten to finish my letter for it is most time it was mailed if you are to have it today. I hope you will write me a long letter if you can to send by Otis. But I suppose you are now very busy in preparing his clothing.

There is a fair in Portland I believe next week. Tell Lizzie perhaps I shall go in and pay a visit there for the fare on the railroad is reduced. How does Mr. Brewster get along at cranberrying? Does he let people pick at wholes yet? My health is good & I think <I> will have a profitable term. I must now close my letter to have it mailed.

From Your affectionate son,  
Charles

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore  
Leeds Maine

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9/24/1854

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs Eliza Gilmore

CHH-017

Yarmouth, Maine

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Yarmouth, Sabbath evening  
Sept. 24th, 1854.

My dear Mother,

I have just finished a letter to Dellie & I thought I should not have time tonight to write you, but I find that it is only eight o'clock, so I think I will devote a while to you.

Otis has gone so you are left at last without a single son for company. In some respects I suppose this is desirable & in some respects it is not. I hope you are enjoying yourself and not now being obliged to work very hard. Each one of these is unknown to me & it is uncertain I think whether you are hard enjoying yourself or are working hard. You must write and tell me if you can soon.

Otis bid me good bye with Rowland Wednesday night. I am glad that he thinks some of coming home in Febr'y. I stayed with Rowland in Brunswick a week ago tonight carrying him his things as I suppose he has told you.

I am getting on well in my studies, going more thorough than ever before. I like Mr Wiggin & the school well. I have been well contented & am so now. Everything has gone on quite smoothly & pleasantly. We have had some quite cold weather & the great coat & drawers were welcomely received. But today it has been much warmer. And I have not worn drawers.

I took a bath this morning at a place prepared on purpose in the stream just below here. It is under a saw mill and there are three apartments prepared on purpose. The water runs along in a large spout and in each of the apartments there is a piece of tin with holes in it nailed on to the bottom of the spout over a hole made in it, so that the water pours through it as through a strainer constantly. I stood under this about a second or a little more, three times. It did not make me cold or shiver at all but I enjoyed it much. Then giving myself a good rubbing I came back warm and clean.

I attended church here at the Congregationalists this forenoon, heard a sermon on the subject of prayers. In the afternoon I went to the Baptist & heard a man from Madeira preach. His text was Isaiah 42 - 4. He read a lecture giving a description of the people from Madeira, the state of the religion there &c. It seems he is a Portuguese & most of the people there are. The established religion is Catholic & the Protestants are very much persecuted. He showed some things that he was taught by his parents to worship & which he did worship till he was twenty years old such as an image of Jesus Christ and some beads with crosses which the pope had consecrated. He gave us a description of the manner his sister escaped her persecutors when seventeen years of age & came to this country. It was quite interesting.

I have been attending a course of three lectures for benefitting the memory by Mr Armes. The last was yesterday afternoon. I paid 50 cts for the course & have learned a method by which I can remember dates & names & can also very quickly commit to memory a row of twenty or 30 figures. He taught some little boy about Dellie's size in about 3 hours so that he told the dates to about a hundred events in history ancient & modern & committed also a long list of figures. After he could write them down the board being taken away. Charles Nutchins of Leeds did the same. These he taught to show what could be done. I have committed to memory the dates of quite a number of events and the dates of battles with the month & day. I think this will be of great use to me if I become familiar enough with it so as to be able to remember many every day occurrences & to remember parts of lessons. I can also remember things to be boughten, if you should ever again have occasion to send me to a store. I think I could remember 20 different articles.

I have not had a fire yet although I needed same last week at night & in the morning somewhat. But as I didn't <could> get any I got along very well without. I got my wood last night paid at the rate of \$6.00 per cord bought two feet which amounted to 75 cts apiece for Winter & I & 6 cts apiece for handling. I think this will be sufficient to last through the term & we should not burn more than 3 quarts of oil which will be about 75 cts for both - 37 ½ apiece. So we shall get board with wood & lights this term for \$1.87.

I told Otis I thought I should go into Portland yesterday & stay over Sunday but I could not go on account

of the Nemotecnis Lectures [a technique to use mnemonics to remember facts]. So I think I should go next Saturday as I wish to go once during the term & if I go then I can go there thru Mechanics Falls. Charlie Haines went home for the first time yesterday. Are the potatoes about to be dug and the corn harvested now at home? We have had some heavy frosts here. Have you had a fire in the dining room yet? Rowland had a fire a month ago when I was at Brunswick. When there I went and took dinner with Mrs Frost, found Capt. Patten & wife & Miss Rachel Patten. Dellie has written me a good letter & some good news, says Roscoe has become pious & Josephine Gilbert. Roscoe was quite serious when I left home & recall his testament much.

Write me if you can & remember me as your Affect. Son  
Charles

To: Mrs Eliza Gilmore

P.S. It is now half past nine o'clock in the evening, so I have been an hour & a half

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12/24/1854

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-018

Yarmouth, Maine

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Yarmouth Dec. 24, '54.

My dear brother: [Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is Sunday noon & I have just returned from church, and as I have not opportunity week-days, I have concluded it would not be spending an hour amiss on Sabbath, to pass it in writing you a letter. As it is snowing very fastly here, I conclude you are also kept from meeting by a storm. Mr. Aiken is our preacher here in the Congregationalist house where I usually go as it is much nearer than to the Baptist & we often have someone from Bowdoin here to preach. Prof. Packard gave us the sermon last Sunday. They also have a very fine organ at this church which cost 900 dollars.

Mr Aiken is a young man, who came here last term, & never preached before. He has been studying at Andover Theological Seminary for three years past, but still is not so interesting a preacher as many who have not had that privilege. But he often preaches very good useful sermons, which latter property, you know, is the one altogether to be desired, in a sermon preached to a congregation of "common souls". This forenoon his text was the 1st verse of the 17th psalm "Give ear unto my prayer, it goeth not out of fained [feigned] lips". Thus he preached about prayers & taught the uselessness of fained or pretended prayer, yes, the wickedness of the prayer only of the lips, while the heart is not in it. Said Christians should be especially guarded in this particular, that they pray fervently, earnestly. And also that they forget not that they are addressing an all wise God. And that they pay due reverence to him, that we should never make petitions to God in the manner we address our fellow men. That we should make confessions to him of all our sinful thoughts & actions. And he spoke very earnestly against being a hypocrite.

I shall go to meeting again at two o'clock. I go on as usual in studies &c. Get up a 5 o'clock, this winter. After reading a chapter or two in the Bible & prayer, I take my book & study till breakfast at 7 o'clock. After breakfast I am obliged to study again till 9 when I go into the school house to prayers. 1st Mr Wiggin makes a prayer there. We either read around in the "New Testament" or else say the "ten commandments". Then sing in the "Songs of Zion" the little singing book you saw me have at home. I must go to meeting for the bell is ringing.

The text this afternoon was in Jeremiah, 17th Chap 9th verse, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" I have been gone from my room an hour & a half. The storm is still raging out of doors; but I have a warm room for my stove is a large air-tight. By the way I changed stoves with a fellow yesterday, by which, chum & I gained 75 cts. It was because our other stove had an oven of which we had no need. Our stoves are hired for the term.

But I will tell you the remainder of the exercises of the day. After singing, those who do not study in school leave the Acad. & go to their rooms. Mr Wiggin strikes his little bell, when those of the back seat start to go out & when they are most to the door, again he rings & the next seat goes &c till all have left. The next thing, on Monday, Wed. & Frid. is my Virgil lessons; Tues. Thurs. & Sat. my Greek. On Thurs I have extra in Greek grammar lesson each week, besides writing Greek every other day. Fridays I have extra in Latin grammar lessons. Mon Tues Thurs I have Algebra. Sat I am obliged to write Latin Exercise in Arnold's Prose Comp. Also to spell. We "take <>" in Latin & Greek Grammar class & in spelling.

We also write a comp. every week & declaim. I have dec. once & must write a comp. for next Tues. We are requested to get a lesson in the Greek Testament to translate on Mond. morning. This <writer> is getting <now>. It is the only studying we do on Sunday. In reading this we are sure to get the true meaning of the Scripture.

In pursuing these duties & spending one eve. at the Philological meeting & another at the Lyceum lectures, my time is all taken up, so I do not often get time, unless my lessons are easy, to write letters. I paid a dollar for a ticket to the course of Lectures - I should have paid 25 cts for each separate ticket. There will be at least 8 lectures. Prof Hitchcock delivered the first on "Amalgamation of the Races." The same one he has given many times before, with a little & interesting addition with respect to Russia. Fisk

of Bath gave the 2nd about comparing the learned & middle classes setting forth the latter as the most beneficial to society. He is a rough writer & coarse speaker, when compared with Prof. Hitchcock.

Well Dellie you must write me how you get on in your studies & <Juv.> society. I shall write to them before their next meeting. Get every lesson well Dellie. This is what I am taught to do here. Do you declaim? I hope so.

Your affectionate brother Chas H Howard

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12/25/1854

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mr & Mrs. John Gilmore,  
Dellie, Roland A. Gilmore

CHH-019

Yarmouth, Maine

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Yarmouth, Dec. 25th, 1854  
4 o'clock A.M. Christmas Day.

I wish you a Merry Christmas Father, Mother, Dellie and Roland Alger. Indeed I hope you will all enjoy yourselves & Rowland. Please write me where you are all spending the day and in what manner. You must not forget that on this day Christ was born, on this day, the star appeared in the eastern sky to guide the wise men to the child Jesus. And they followed that star till it stood above where he was, finding him in a manger, fell down & worshiped him. They went to Herod to inform him of the star before they saw the child, & he told them to bring back word if it was true what they had heard of him through the angels. But they were advised of God through a dream not to go back, but went by another way into their own country. Thus the birth of our Savior was celebrated by Angels & wise men. And don't be forgetful of him, Dellie, either his birth, his life or his death. For God was & is constantly mindful of you.

I arose at 20 minutes of 4 & kindled my fire very quickly, then layed in bed till five minutes of when the room had become warmer.

My health is & has been pretty good since I came down here, all the exception is a slight cold in my head & throat which I have been trying to cure. I took some spermaceti & molasses last night when I went to bed & I think my cold is not so bad as it has been.

I received a letter from Otis a short time since. He was well, had finished his book, was coming home, at least to Portland next Wednes. Night or Thurs. How does Rowland get on in his school? I shall write him a letter next, should have written him before, but because I supposed he saw those that I wrote home & therefore would see how I was getting along. Tell him I am reading the 9th & last book of the Aeneid of Virgil which I shall be obliged to read. We get 275 lines a day.

Two Haskell boys from Greene came here & stayed a few days, then went to Andover, thinking Mr Wiggins was not a sufficiently thorough teacher. But they could not judge in the short time they were here & by only observing the recitations. They acknowledged they never saw a class read so fast & so literally before.

I received mother's note & have answered the letter but 'twas a long time before I could remember who that fellow was. But concluded, he was at Kent Hill last term. And lives up near Elder Barrow's!

Write soon Dellie, & tell me if you think you enjoy that love of God which it is our privilege to have.

A Merry, Merry Christmas.  
Your brother, Chas H Howard



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4/15/1855

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Eliza Gilmore

CHH-020

Yarmouth, Maine

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Mrs. Eliza Gilmore

Yarmouth, April 15, 1855.

Dear Mother

I received yours and Dellie's letter in due season and the 3 dollars with it. I did go to Brunswick and spend the last Sabbath, having borrowed some money of my room mate. I called on Mrs. Frost and found her and her children well and glad to see me I should judge.

Rowland told me he was going home Wednesday, so I will not write about his health and circumstances.

Our school will continue 3 weeks from next Tuesday night, so you will have the opportunity of sending the money for paying my bills, by Rowland. But I believe there has been a law passed from which it is safer to send money by mail now.

Do you have any preaching at the Centre now? Elder Nutter has gone to New Brunswick I believe. I wish they would get a young, smart man to preach and live in Leeds, who would wake the people out of their sleep. I believe most who attend at the Centre, not church members and very many who do not go to meeting at all, are in a worse condition than the Heathen, who have never heard the Gospel. And it seems to me had I the control of those things, I would first and quickly send a laborious and patient Missionary into Leeds.

Dellie must not give over his efforts for the prosperity of our Society and the promotion of Temperance. The friends of this cause are constantly gaining ground. In the halls of legislation they have helped it on by making the law more stringent and effective. In Portland they have gained a glorious and a most desirable victory by electing Neal Dow Mayor. [Neal Dow was one of the founders of the Temperance Society and was responsible for the Maine Prohibition Law enacted in 1851, but repealed in 1856. He had been elected mayor of Portland in 1851, lost reelection, but won again in 1855.] Now it seems as though the cause ought not to lack supporters in private, which is so ably supported in public. If the government will make good laws, do let the people enforce them and receive the benefit.

Tell Dellie I have not received that letter yet which was to be written by order of the Society every six weeks to me. I am glad Dellie is getting sap, etc., for I am in hopes he will make that body of his healthy and strong. Mother please get Dellie to read aloud to you some day the piece on the 136 page of "Town's Fourth Reader." He must be careful in his writing too, and especially in spelling, which is not of minor importance at all in one's education. I saw a few words miss-spelled in his last, some of which I have no doubt he knew how to spell correctly.

I begin to review this week, the studies I have pursued during, the Term. Have you heard from Otis lately? I have not. Dr. Dwight of Portland preached here to-day. He is quite a celebrated man, and he did preach a good sermon this forenoon upon the necessity of humility in order to become and be a Christian. His text was "Except ye be converted and become as little children ye cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven." This afternoon he gave us a history of Joseph.

I find, if I get on well, that just after I enter College I shall have 3 weeks vacation during August. Tell Dellie he must write some in every letter. I hope you will write soon. Is it healthy in Leeds at present time? My sheet is full.

I think I'll take a walk.

Yours affectionately,  
Chas. H. Howard

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11/4/1855

*From:* Oliver Otis Howard

*To:* Charles H Howard

CHH-021

Watervliet Arsenal, NY

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Watervliet Arsenal N.Y.

Nov. 4th 1855.

Dear Brother Charlie,

I have just completed a long letter to Mother, and wrote Rowland some time ago, stating that I had forwarded a package to him by the kindness of Major Symington. I want to know if he got the same. The Major says he left the package in Brunswick.

Give our love to R. I hope you are both in the best of health. I have not heard that you have returned to Bowdoin yet, but presume you have before this, as the last news from Rowland showed that you were eating voraciously.

I have been to church at Troy to day. It was too wet and rainy for Lizzie to go out, so I went alone. I have a part of a pew at St. John's Church. The Clergyman, Mr. Temple, is a Welshman by birth. He is not what is called an eloquent man, but his sermons are very simple and practical and he is a very good man, which weigh much in any man's favor. I like the man and his sermons very well.

Lizzie sends her love. Tell me how Mother was looking and how her health was when you were at home.

Major Symington and Mr. Boggs were both away at the same time, the former to inspect Arsenals at the North and the latter as a witness on a Court Martial at West Point. So I had the labor and dignity of commanding Watervliet. But both are returned and I have relapsed into the third in rank. I am a little too lazy to write more to night.

Believe me as ever  
Your affectionate brother  
Otis

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6/19/1856

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mrs E Gilmore

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CHH-022

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Thursday Morning June 19 1856

Mrs. E. Gilmore

My dear Mother

We were very much pleased to have a letter, etc.

I thought I had written almost every week and I take pleasure in writing as often as this. I do not have to study very hard but yet do not have much time to read.

I was vaccinated last Wed. and as I did not wish to be exposed to the smallpox till it had taken effect and as I wanted to make Otis a visit, I went to Augusta Thurs. and stayed till Mond. Otis and Lizzie seemed glad to see me. I carried my books with me and so kept my studies along,. We went to Hallowell on Saturday afternoon and saw at Laura A's Aunt Fannie. She was very much pleased with the baby. Otis and I went over to Uncle John's and brought Aunt Ellen and her baby over. Hers is 3 weeks younger. It is a smart, fiery little girl with snapping, black eyes. Uncle came over to tea. He seems very much pleased with his little baby. Little Guy looks finely and what is better never cries. Lizzie is perfectly well but Mrs. Waite has been a little ill.

It is now almost time for me to go to prayers, for the bell is ringing. I rose at five.

Aunt Fannie thinks you are getting along very pleasantly now with no great family. I am real glad our family is reduced but I shall add one to it in 5 or 6 weeks. I hope you will come to Commencement and of course Father will come to hear Rowland. We expect him to come at any rate whether anyone else does or not. Give my love to Dellie and tell him to write often and good long letters.

Rowland and I called at Mr. Sands last night, stayed an hour or more. Sort of a society met there. Mrs. Frost was there with Ann Octavia.

I should like to have 10 dollars sent in your next, as there are several bills to pay this term for which I have no money. One is 6 dollars for books to a Senior.

Good Bye to all.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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9/6/1856

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* R. B. Howard

CHH-023

Bath, Maine

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Bath Maine

Sat. Eve. Sept 6, 1856.

Dear Brother

You perceive I am in Bath and can imagine where I am. But I may as well tell you how that I came down this afternoon after hearing Senator Wilson at the Depot from 1 o'clock till the cars came. I was rather unexpected I think but Ella appeared really glad that I came. She and Mr. Patten read that letter of Otis' with interest. Ella showed me your Daguerrotype soon after I arrived. It is a very good one I think. I went to call on Miss Hooper at about 8 o'clock. I was never there before. I passed the time till 9 1/2 very agreeably in listening to music of singing and playing. Miss Hooper has a fine piano. There were five or six girls there, two of whom I was acquainted with. I found Ella in the library room when I got back a few minutes ago. She showed me into this Chamber in the corner next to the hall and when she had got here asked me if I wanted to write something to you as she was writing. I told her I would and she opened a little box here, which contained the materials for writing. She then showed me how to turn the gas off and said Good Night.

There has been a torch light procession here to night of the Republicans. It looked splendidly and the Band played well. It was very long, but I must tell you that we had at the least more than twice as many to hear Wilson as were present to hear George Evans the day before. Wilson is good looking but don't come up to Pitt Fessenden in making Speeches. You must be doing good up there speaking so often. Geo Johnston said to day he wished you would come down here and speak for he wants to hear you. I have no doubt now that Hamlin will carry the state. Capt. Patten admires Stevens' and Winthrop's speeches at Boston very much. The other parties here hate the Republicans dreadfully, don't you think so? I find I have written considerable. I am somewhat tired. We want Haley Psi U [in Greek letters] and what shall we do to get him? I wish you were here to fish him. We had 89 for Hamlin, 46 opposition the other day at our College election. Great many Republicans were absent and but few Democrats.

Write soon and remember

Your Affectionate Brother:

Chas. H. Howard

To R. B. Howard

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1/24/1857

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs E Gilmore

CHH-024

Brunswick, Maine

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Brunswick  
Jan. 24, 1857

Mrs. E. Gilmore

My dear Mother

Another Saturday night has arrived and the coldest day that Maine has ever witnessed has passed and finds me in my old room with a comfortable and cheerful fire, contented but all alone. I have just finished my first letter to Otis and now begin one to my mother. These letters with those to Dellie and Rowland are the only ones I feel much interest in writing and having answered.

My school closed last night. My scholars were sorry to have it close apparently. It has seemed very short. I have derived advantage from it. They did not expect the Master to visit so much at Falmouth as at Vassalboro. I have scarcely been out of our room there except to the Club meeting on Wed. night. 66 dollars were paid me by the agent and I hope all teachers take as much pleasure in earning that amount as I have. If it was not for my throat I should like teaching quite well. My room at first looked dreary, but I soon had a fire from the dry wood of which my closet was full.

Prof. Cleveland says this is the coldest day ever known in this climate. Thermometers stood from 36 to 42 all over the country, from Augusta to Portland. How did our thermometer stand to day? I can always tell better the degree of heat and cold by that because I have watched it and can compare the present with the past. I was almost all day in coming from Falmouth on account of the irregularity of the cars on the Kennebec Road, owing to the cold weather. Mrs. Susan Merrill (Melville's sister in law, whose husband is in California) "Pieced" the sleeves to my old great coat and I think I will wear it some while here, in my room if no where else.

Prof. Packard has gone to Biddeford, so we shall have no recitation next Monday morning. I do not think Dellie's room mate is as good a one as some would be but Dellie says he gets along well with him. Merrill says he has a pretty good faculty for looking out for No. 1, notwithstanding our views to the contrary, but when I remember that it was apt to be the case with the rest of us (i.e. to look out for. No. 1) I do not wonder that he should be able to do the same.

Seems to me our Aqueduct must have frozen up this cold weather. I had a school last Mond., so that I did not lose a day, but I had only 8 scholars out of the 88. Ladd who taught in Vassalboro where I was last winter has returned and says he had a good school. He had 20 dollars and I had last winter 28. So much for my good luck and business tact, for they did not know much more about me nor any than about Ladd. He is in my class and a better scholar in our studies than I am. In other branches and in general knowledge like most of my class, he falls below me.

I am in good season on the ground this year. Mrs. Grow's son, sea captain, has got home I believe. There have been several deaths of young people in Falmouth by Consumption this winter and last Fall. How is the health of Leeds folks? Mrs. Merrill seemed to be attached to me. She looked carefully to my health and comfort and found all the holes in my stockings, etc. that she could in order to mend. I hope that this cold weather will not inconvenience you and father. I cannot tell how you are or what you are doing to night. Let us trust in God and love to serve and obey him.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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3/9/1857

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-025

Bowdoin College

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Bowdoin College, Mar. 9, 1857.

My dear Mother

Rowland has not been here yet. He went thro' Wed. I have been disappointed in not seeing him make his appearance. Yet I shall have to excuse him as a young woman engrosses his attention and it is the way with all the world to yield to the charms of women.

I don't believe in it however. I have fully recovered from my sickness and my appetite was restored without more medicine than some pills which I took just before I got your kind letter.

The money came all safe and was soon in the hands of another.

I sang at the Baptist yesterday. Prof. Packard preached there. Mr. Moore of Portland, the man who is now so popular there and preaches at the new church called Union Church, preached here on the hill all day and I heard him in the evening. He is a fine looking man and preaches according to my views the gospel in its purity. Is not doctrinal.

Dr. Sheldon of Bath former president of Waterville College preached at the Unitarian. He you know has changed his views and written a book called "Sin And Redemption." I went in and heard him awhile this afternoon.

To get my lessons well now I have to study pretty much all of the time. Do not read any hardly.

There is some interest in Religion in College now so that prayer meetings are held in different rooms out of the stated periods. I hope there will be a work of Grace here such as has not been seen for many a year. I was glad and surprised to hear you were to have some additions to the Church in Leeds. Mrs. Brewster is almost if not quite gone. Our neighbors are passing away but we are thus far spared. We are monuments of Mercy.

Give my love to Father. I hope the papers containing an acc't of the trial of Knight will be preserved. I had a long letter from Otis the other day to my great satisfaction.

Remember me especially to Roland A. [Gilmore, step-brother] and wife and to Roscoe if he be with you.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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4/11/1857

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-026

Bowdoin College

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Bowdoin College

Apr. 11, 185? [probably 1857]

My dear Mother

I received your brief letter with the money today and your other letter in due season. I was hard pressed by my part last week or I should have answered your letter before. It went before the President today. It will have to be rewritten once more and then I am done with it.

That was real news from Rowland's family. Glad to hear Cynthia [Gilmore] was sitting up. Hope she will not spend such a miserable summer as after Johnny was born. [John Gilmore, b May 30, 1856 to Roland and Cynthia Gilmore] Then Father is cutting the wood without help. Perhaps I may be of some use at home this vacation. I shall I think be there Wednesday week. Dellie wants me to spend the night with him and I think of doing so if I can get away Tuesday. I enjoyed having him to see me very much. Rowland wrote me just before Dellie came and I have not answered him yet.

Ella writes she thinks R. will come to Bath the first of May. A society of the girls here have been at work to raise money for the seminary at Bangor and they are to have a sale or fair at that time. I saw Mrs. Patten at Mrs. Frost's some time as I may have mentioned to you. She enquired about you and as did Mrs. Frost. I took dinner there. Anna Hattie Mrs. Patten's youngest girl and "Sis Putnam" Dr. P.'s daughter who married a sister of Mr. Frost were there at "Aunt Jane's" stopping for a few days. They walked over to Brunswick with me on the R.R. to get the N.Y. Ledger. They had got interested in reading a story "The Hidden Hand." Probably you know more about it than I do. I showed them the bookstore and they started on their way back. Ann Octavia is at Bath taking lessons of Ella and going to school. I received a letter from Ella a day or two ago, the first I have had this term. I believe it was my turn to write, at least she reckoned so but she wanted me to come down and as I have not been there for a long time I think I shall go next Sat. and spend the Sabbath.

Yesterday was the day you wrote your letter. It was a fine day and a fine evening. They had preaching at the Baptist by a minister from Boston. An Evangelist, something like the one who was here last Summer. He told a good many anecdotes and some of them calculated to drive away all serious thoughts, in fact they set the whole house in a grin or titter. I don't like such things in the pulpit on Sunday. But he is smart, got a thundering voice and drew a great crowd to meeting. He is going to preach every night during the week and hold a union Prayer meeting for one hour every afternoon. He will also preach next Sabbath. The house was crowded. They have no preaching at the Baptist in Topsham now. Mr. Robbins has resigned. There was trouble about his second wife whom he married during last year under suspicious circumstances. I feel in hopes some sinners will be awakened by this Mr. Burnham's preaching notwithstanding his peculiarities.

You have probably learned ere this of the death of Fuller's mother. She died Apr. 1st at 4 o'clock A.M. He wrote me that morning. He won't be back till next term.

I wonder if the R.R. is completed to Farmington. It has been fine weather for them to finish it lately but today is snowing again.

I hear Holbrook recite now at 1 o'clock. Probably he will pay his tuition at the close of the term. It will be \$1.00 as he will have been here two weeks. With this I can pay Mr. Curtis (Diogenes) for bringing up my load of wood and mending my pants and another bill of 25cts at the Bookseller's and have money to get home with. Without this I can let those bills go till next term and then I shall have 30¢ left provided I go to Bath next Saturday.

It is now almost 10 o'clock in the evening. I paused at this point and read over my Chemistry lesson for the morning and now it has got to be my bed time and I will finish my letter in the morning. I hear Nettie recite every morning. She had just finished washing this morning. Their girl went away last week. Nettie is attending a singing-school now Monday and Tuesday nights. It is an association rather than a singing-school and will give a concert next week.

Tuesday Morning. I have but a few moments to spare to write this morning. I am at Mr. Meryman's. Came down after breakfast and have heard Nettie recite and now must return to hear a lecture from Prof. Chadbourne, it being 8 1/2 o'clock.

Nothing had been said about Nettie going to Leeds until you wrote. I was glad you wanted her to come but it is uncertain whether she will be able to do so. I doubt if she comes to Leeds.

In haste, I am Your Aff. Son

C.H.Howard



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7/7/1857

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mrs E Gilmore

CHH-027

Bowdoin College

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Mrs. E. Gilmore.

Bowd. Coll. July 7th 1857.

My dear Mother

Though I have not time now to write long yet believe I will begin a letter to you. I am well and as happy as I am wont to be, perhaps happier than usual.

There has much occurred of late to make me happy. I returned yesterday morning from Hallowell. We united with the Church as contemplated. Prof. Shepherd preached a most excellent sermon in the forenoon from Galatians 2d 19th and 20th verses. At its close those who had been propounded were invited to come forward. We stood before the pulpit, another young man named Atherton and two young ladies. Rowland and I and 1 young lady were baptized. It was a solemn occasion to me and I think attended with a blessing to my soul. I never shall be sorry that I waited no longer. It was a good opportunity and I had settled in my mind that this church conformed nearest to my interpretation of God's Word and dispensation. I do pray that I may be as willing to do what I feel to be His will in all things.

Oh I was so much rejoiced to hear about Lizzie. This life is now worth living and when she is done with it she has the assurance of meeting her much loved Savior and being united again to her dear Mother.

How can we thank enough Our Father in Heaven for his mercy and love to us? I am determined to try always to show forth my gratitude by my daily life. May His Spirit aid me and you. Our hearts are still liable to sin but the Redeemer will forgive and receive us to himself and this is our ground of hope. It is foolish to suppose we can live free from sin but it requires only a willing mind to repent and ask forgiveness. If the Lord never withdraws his Spirit it will always enlighten our hearts, our consciences so the sin will appear to our view. Oh that a hatred of sin might possess me and a love of holiness!

Mr. Webb of Augusta preached in the afternoon. I think I like Prof. Shepherd best but Mr. Webb also preaches excellent discourses. Rowland and I walked to Augusta Sat. afternoon and called at Mr. Turner's and Charlie Mullikins. We saw Mrs. Turner Capt. Turner's wife. She is far better than when I left home. She had not heard from Leeds for some time. Seemed very glad to see us. We returned and took tea with Aunt Ellen. F. expects to go there to live very soon I believe.

After supper we called at R. G. Lincoln's to see Prof. S. He was not in and I went home and went to bed. I have told you about the Sabbath. It was a very interesting day to us both. We went to Lowden Hill to a prayer meeting after meeting. I left at 5.20 in the morning. That this may go today I will close and carry it down.

Your Affec. Son  
C.H. Howard

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7/25/1857

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* R H Gilmore

CHH-029

Bowdoin College

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To R. H. Gilmore

Bowd. Coll. July 25, 1857.

My dear brother

I received your last letter with great pleasure as usual. Am glad you got me so good a bargain in the lamp. I had bought one here for \$4.00 which I ought to sell for the same. I have not yet paid for nor taken it from the person I had it of.

I have not done quite so well for you but have got a Greek Lexicon, very good one, for \$3.00. Price of a new one is \$4.50 and sometimes 5.00 I think. I shall want you to remit the \$3.00 to me as soon as you can as he wants his pay between this and Commencement.

I suppose I could not get a second hand Latin Lexicon for no one wants to sell their Latin Lexicon. You would like to have a good clean Andrews Latin Lexicon I think. I got a new one and have kept it covered and looking pretty well. You will want to keep it all your life. Price \$4.25.

I received a letter from Mother day before yesterday and she had lately heard from Rowland and Otis. Otis was in search for Indians. R. at Hallowell and doing well. All well at home. I got Ella to show me your letters while at B. last Sunday. I was much pleased with them.

Cannot write more. Remember me when you pray.

Your Affectionate br.  
C. H. Howard.

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12/14/1857      *From:* Charles H. Howard      *To:* Mother

CHH-030

Brunswick, Maine

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Brunswick Dec. 14, '57

My dear Mother

Two weeks have slipped by I came tonight to a new place to board. I have been for the whole two weeks at one place, the Agent's Mr. Snow's. My school consists of 46 all told. Not very hard, not very easy, longer than I had anticipated.

Most of the time I have enjoyed myself tolerably well. But some days when I don't feel very well and am a little cross then the scholars are out of sorts and all goes wrong. You perhaps will agree however that I am not very apt to be cross(?) and hence that the most of the time the school goes pleasantly. I was strict today but it sat well on them. One boy of 16 last week caused me some trouble as he has all the masters I hear. I told him to stop after school and he did not. Then he feared to come to school till the next afternoon at recess when he came in after much persuasion by his folks, the boys and others.

I told him to come into the floor and he did so. I asked him if he was sorry he disobeyed me. He said he was. I asked him if he would do it again. He said "No." I told him to say "No Sir" and he said it and took his seat and has been a good boy ever since.

At Mr. Snow's where I've been boarding they had children and it was rather noisy. Mr. Snow was a great talker and I couldn't read much. I like it here much as it is still. This man's name is Snow too. He has two children, one 22 a man, the other 18 or 20 a young lady. Both go to my school and are quiet and agreeable. Mr. and Mrs. Snow about 60 years of age are quiet. I've been reading the N.Y. Independent all the Eve. Which I have to read from the kindness of a classmate Mr. Howe of Lowell. He told me I could have the reading of it and I offered to send it to him afterwards so the New York Independent, edited by H.W. Beecher, his sister, Dr. C <> and others comes to me at the rate of about 6 cents for the winter or a cent for every number sent to him. I've read some aloud to them tonight, a piece of poetry on the honor of a grey head, another The Christian Merchant but I am hoarse now. Went to the village Saturday afternoon and was contented and happy Sunday.

Heard two Sermons from Mr. Reed and listened to his providential call to the ministry and his Christian experience in the evening. I sang in Church, attended Choir meeting Sat. night and selected every tune to suit my own taste. Sang also in the evening, selecting and giving the pitch of every tune. I got cold but shall soon be free from that.

Had a letter from Rowland and Otis and from Dellie during the last half of the week. Dellie is doing well in his studies and has about given up the idea of coming to college next Fall of which I am glad as it will give him a chance to keep school next winter and earn something and also the chance of getting a good fit. Otis is prospering. Lizzie has two girls but the care of the children wears upon her some. The little girl is bound to have a red head which I was aware of all the time tho' I did not mention it before Lizzie but once.

Rowland is about his Master's work. Is enjoyed in a flourishing S. School which he and E. of Hallowell have just established in the Suburbs of Bangor.

Otis preaches on various portions of the Lord's prayer every Wednesday night. I am a mile from the school house now but I have my luck to take my dinners warm and nice very near the school.

Oh I hope you are happy and cheerful this winter and will always be so as long as you live which I hope, God willing, may yet be many years. I stop at Mr. Meryman's when I go to the village. Have been urged by Profs. Packard and Chamberlain to spend the Sabbath with them.

Write me soon Mother for nothing can give me more ease of mind than to hear often that you and Father are well and prospering. Good Bye

Your Affectionate Son,  
C. H. Howard



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1/27/1858

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-031

Brunswick, Maine

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Brunswick Jan. 27, 1858.

My dear Mother

I ought to have written and sent you a letter Monday. The Aeolian came in safely. Rowland came on the same train of cars. It was a pity Father did not go down to the Junction with it on Sat. and consign it to Rowland but you did not know he was coming thro' I suppose. It came by express and therefore cost a dollar instead of 37 cts. I guess Solomon did not mark it with the chalk for Yarmouth Junction. Howe could not find it. But while I was talking with Rowland and had just mentioned the Aeolian the Express man came up, and asked if there was any such a person as Charles H. Howard in these parts. He knew Rowland and spoke to him. I took it over to Mr. Meryman's where I spent my Sabbath. Since I came out to my school I have had so many things to attend to, and cares, that not till I had gone to bed last night did I think that I ought to write and let you know of the safe arrival. I had thought of you many times and of the Aeolian but when I had the opportunity had not thought of writing.

No, Mother I have not heard from Otis since you have. I expected Rowland up from Bath to see me Monday night, but last night it rained. Oh what a splendid day it has been today. I have been looking for R. and Ella all day and am going out to the Village after Supper and see if I cannot find them.

He said he should come up. He looked as usual and said he saw Dellie at Auburn.

The term has begun and it makes me homesick to hear the ringing of the distant bell. It reminds me that College is going on but I do not and probably cannot study a mite. This house and family where I board consists of 1 room and two bed rooms and a "butry" 2 little girls and a young man of 22 that go to school and a father and mother. You see the chance of study is small.

There is a hole in the toe of my new boot which I must have mended tonight. It will take my last quarter of a dollar and so I would be glad to have some more. Did not suppose I'd have to pay so much for Aeolian.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H.Howard

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4/5/1858

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-032

Bowdoin College

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Bowd. Coll .  
April 5, 1858.

My dear Mother

Saturday afternoon I was writing on my 1st Theme. I am now pretty much made up, all but my themes. Our vacation. is at hand. I suppose our Examination will occur on Tuesday two weeks from tomorrow. Expect me as soon as Wednesday for my stay at home is to be so short I don't mean to delay getting there. I hope you are well mother if so it seems to me I shall have a very pleasant visit. My clothes perhaps more than usual will need your attention if you are well. I have been away a long time now. I want a pair at least of good shirts and if you could get the cloth so as to have them set about soon after I get home it would be well. I want a couple of Collars to say the least.

I have left in a condition to be worn only that pair of black pants which were Otis'. I have just put them on. Hope they will last the fortnight. The tailor is making me a pair of black Doe Skin as I found those others wore so remarkably well. I have one shirt which sets well and I will I think have the others made by it. They told me this winter that some of my old shirts deserved new bosoms.

So much for clothes. Now I want you to tell me what you think about bringing my Aeolean home this vacation. I would like to have it here during term time and it is questionable whether during this short vacation it would pay for the expense of transportation. If you think best I will pack it again. I want to read studiously while at home because I have not read a word this time owing to making up. I am not one to read fast and remember without effort and I feel as though I shall be deficient when I come to call on my mind for thoughts on the various subjects which must be treated of while here and when I have left College.

Tues. afternoon. I have just returned from dinner. There is a prayer meeting at this time down at the vestry every noon for a half hour. I sometimes go down. We have a meeting in one of our recitation rooms three times a week from 12 to 12 1/2.

There was preaching almost every night last week at the vestry, once by Mr. J. S. C. Abbott, once by Mr. Morse the Methodist, once by Prof Packard and by Dr. Adams. Dr. Adams was up at my room this forenoon. He has never been here before and I have never known him to call on any student since I have been in College. He knocked at the door, I said "Come" and he opened the door and looking in and seeing several in here studying (as it was just about recitation time) he remarked that he would call again at some other time and retired. George Moody a particular friend of mine of my class and who rooms on this floor has just indulged a hope in Christ. There have been some out of every class.

Possibly I may come Tuesday, Mother, but if it is not perfectly convenient you needn't send to the cars. I can walk down, if I come. I have heard from Dellie. He is well. Give my love to Father. I am gladder than ever that vacation is at hand.

Your Affectionate Son  
Chas. H. Howard

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3/28/1859

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-033

Bowdoin College

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Bowd. Coll.  
Mar. 28, 1859

My dear Mother

I have an opportunity of sending a letter thro' by Mr. Fuller of my class. He is going up in the cars, so I thought I would write a few lines at least.

Mr. Fuller's mother is just gone with the Consumption. His father wrote Saturday for him to come home and he will not be back this term. He has been fearing she would be worse this Spring. His sister was at the Maine State Sem. but went home last week. He looks pretty solemn. He will probably lose a most estimable parent making his home in a measure desolate. He will also lose his college privileges of the remainder of this term which is about 3 weeks and they are of more account as Prof. Chadbourne goes away at the close of this term and he will lose his lectures and other instruction.

Fuller has been with me about as much as tho' we used the same room. We have got nearly all our lessons together. We read the Mental Philosophy aloud, reading each alternate sections. Sometimes I am in his room which is by the side of mine and sometimes he is in mine. He is reading my Independent here now. He takes the Transcript and I have the reading of that. I forget whether I have written since I got my last papers or not. I will not trouble you to send any more this term as I have my part to attend to now and can have little time to read.

What a beautiful morning we have. I got up about 5 o'clock to get my Chemistry. After breakfast I went down to Mr. Meryman's as I do every pleasant morning to hear Nettie recite but we frequently go out to take the morning air. Today we went to walk and talked on the subject of the lesson with her instead of hearing a lesson from the text book.

I went to church on the Hill yesterday. Dr. Adams [Rev George Eliashib Adams] exchanged with Mr. Walker of State St. Church in Portland. He is a young man and a very interesting preacher. In the evening I went to the Vestry to hear the first of a series of sermons by Prof. Egbert Smyth. His subject appeared to be God as the moral Gov. of the Universe. Besides the natural evidences of this and those from the reason of the thing he spoke of the direct Communications <> recorded in the Bible. First the Prohibition to Adam and Eve, 2d the Decalogue, 3d the Transfiguration Scene when He said "This is my beloved Son, Hear ye Him." We have every reason to believe what was communicated in the two last holds good now and will always hold good. Christ came to fulfill the Law.

I was over to Mrs. Frost's last Thursday noon. Saw Mrs. Potter there. She went out in the train expecting to meet her husband on Brunswick side and go to Bath. They came up the day before to Mr. Center's funeral. He was a cousin of Mrs. P. I believe. One of his daughters Anna Hattie was there and was going to stay till Sat. Ann Octavia was down to Bath. Has been there some time going to a private school and taking lessons in music of Ella.

Ella I suppose you know talks of going to N. York and to West Point among other places. Otis has invited her to come and spend the next winter with him. I should like to go. What do you think about it? I have a great notion of getting a school to keep this Fall. I have not heard from Rowland for some time nor from Dellie for a week. I want to get a letter from him soon. How does the wood pile come on?

They expect Albert Potter home the first of May or before and Ella will not probably start for N.Y. till after he comes. She is going to Mr. George Potter's wedding which occurs in June.

The snow is almost all gone here but I suppose you have a goodly quantity yet. Give my love to Father and remember me to Roland and Cynthia and Johnny, to Thomas and Abbie if they are there. How does the R.R. come on?

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard





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4/27/1859

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Julius ?

CHH-034

Leeds, Maine

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Leeds Me.

Apr. 27, 1859.

My dear Julius

You don't know how glad I was to have such a letter from you and Melville. I did not know Melville was with you before and did not even know certainly where you was or what you was there for. I am bad enough off to be sure but after thinking and praying over the subject a good deal I cannot think it is better for me to leave College now. If I left I could not graduate in this Class and I should never want to enter another. My friends would not appreciate my case fully, no one would understand it as you and Melville would. I am no worse than I have been for four or five years that I know of. To be sure I have had stuffiness three or more times during the week past but I don't expect to have another for several weeks. I am delighted at the prospect of your being Cured but don't dare to hope such an attainment for myself. Go on, God speed to you my dear fellows. I thank you so much for your interest in me. If I live till the 10th of August and you are benefited in the meanwhile, as you expect to be, then I will go to Hill. I was intending to teach this Fall but I will give that up.

Write me what you do, say when you get up in the morning, when breakfast, what you do before and after and how you occupy yourself during the day. Don't the Doct. think you better read any? That is strange. Are there any others with the same trouble as yourselves. You said other patients but I didn't know what their ailments were.

I shall, if I live so long, surely come to Hill, but I do hope (though you know how glad I'd be to have your company) that you will be well men before that time. My folks are looking with high hopes to my Commencement. Some are coming from N.Y. to see me graduate. I shall not do very well and chiefly I think owing to this deplorable difficulty. I shall not be good for anything in this world, with this body, only I am relieved from this life draining disease. I had the highest hopes and I trust noble ends to attain but for some months, yes for years now I may say I have with difficulty refrained from feelings of discouragement. I want to benefit the world, the human race, but how can I do it if dragged down by this load. I feel like a man tugging under an insupportable weight. Sometimes I'll muster strength enough to lift it up and try on for a little distance and then I give away and more, I go down, down. But now there is something bright ahead, especially if you and Melville get cured. God bless you my dear boys. I'll come when I have finished what my "hands now find to do." I'll do this with what little "might" there is left in me.

Affectionately yours

C. H. Howard

I go to Brunswick week from Friday. Write before if you can, if not write me just as soon as you can. I want to know how you get along. Gratify me will you?

C.H.H.

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7/26/1859

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-035

Bowdoin

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Bowdoin College,  
July 26, 1859.

My dear Mother

It was with the greatest pleasure I received your letter last night. I meant to have written before but have been so busy with my part that I could not get time. I have written two since that one Rowland knew about. That did not suit the President and after talking with Prof. [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain, but not seeing the Pres. I wrote another. This seemed to suit Prof. C. but when I came to see the Pres. I found he wanted me to write on a different plan or rather it was almost a different subject. That was only last Thursday. I felt rather discouraged at first but finally sat down and wrote Friday but did not like what I had got at all. I felt well Saturday and began and wrote the whole thing and after rewriting part of it yesterday I carried it in to Prof. C. and the Pres. and neither found any fault and so my part is done, finished last night

You did not write when you was coming but I suppose the first train on Monday, arriving here at 2 1/4 At 2 1/2 the exercises of our class day begin. You would enjoy witnessing these I doubt not. First an Oration and Poem by members of my class, then at the old tree, a class History, a Prophecy, an address to the tree, an Ode written by Fuller will then be sung by all who can sing. Then we each take one draught from a big pipe, the Calumet of peace and all our difficulties and differences vanish away in smoke. Prize declamation of Juniors Mond. Eve. Oration before the Phi Beta Kappa Tuesday forenoon will probably be the most able production of Commencement week. It is by President Sears of Brown University. Tuesday P.M. Oration and Poem before the United Societies Ath. and Peac. Dr. Holland Editor of the Springfield Republican and author of Titcomb Letters and a new Poem "Bitter Sweet" is the Orator and will give something exceedingly fine. Poem by Melville Fuller of Augusta. Concert by the Germania Band in the eve, will be the best ever listened to here it is said. They will try to out do Dodworth as this is the first time a change has been made for several years and as they do not come so far we can afford to have 6 more pieces (instruments) than we had from Dodworth.

I am glad you are preparing some shirts for my bosom buttonholes are giving out. I am intending to go home after Com., so you must not bring them. I want two night shirts and shall want two undershirts fixed up out of some old ones and these we can see to after I get home. I want them very short, not coming below my waist. I shall want some mending done.

You ask about Nettie. She gets along admirably in her school. All seem to love her and they have had trouble for a good many years before. She said she wanted to write to you and that she should get a chance this week, but she is very busy out of school, sewing for herself. She had a great deal to do as she had been going to school & then went right to teaching & she has some idea going away to school this fall. She "thinks every thing" of you & has been intending to see you a good deal this <>. She spoke about Laura and said she wanted her to come & stop there. Give my love to Laura and tell her I shall be glad to see her every day and hour except a few minutes on Wednesday when I am going to send all my friends out of the Meeting house. But now I think of it I shall keep Laura because she will be looking so cheerful and will laugh and not cry if I should happen to blunder. You never can dispense with people of this Cheerful spirit.

Unavoidably there will be a great crowd at Mrs Meryman's . But you must expect such at Com. Mr. Howe's lady, Miss Cushman of Auburn who stopped there last year will be there. She is a fine, unassuming, easy appearing young lady. She is Preceptress of a Female Seminary in Penn. Miss Alden of Bangor who was here and found Nettie's acquaintance two years ago, a relation of Webster, another classmate, will be there. Miss Mason of Portland who is a young lady friend of Nettie's and Otis will remember as being here last year and becoming interested in religion, will be another one.

There are three other ladies, 2 from Portsmouth N.H. and one from Bowdoinham that they expect somewhat. So you will be prepared for a crowd. These may not all come. If they do all will be just as well, only perhaps the men wont fare so well. I forgot to say that on Thursday there would be an Oration by Dr. Hedge of Cambridge before the Maine Historical Society. I had a letter from Dellie last night. He don't know when to come, so I have written him to come Monday with you. I want you to be sure and tell Otis what I forgot in my letter to him, that Helen Sands sent a word as long ago as the 4th inst. to bring both

the children at any rate. Perhaps this has been the intention and perhaps not, but she and they all are very anxious to see them both and Helen says she will take all the care of them both if they will only come

Don't think, Mother, that Nettie was unhappy at Leeds. She says it was one of the pleasantest and happiest weeks of her life and she wants to go again and would after Com. if it was agreeable to you and her school was done. But she teaches a week after Com. She has never mentioned to any one what I said to you. Wouldn't have told me if I had not seen it myself and spoken about it. It was of no consequence.

I am sorry you did not write some of your intentions and I guess you must either write or get Rowland or Otis to. But Rowland is going to preach at Harpswell next Sab. I hear. Father will come won't he? Farewell,

Your most Affectionate Son  
C.H.Howard.

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10/25/1859      *From:* Charles H. Howard      *To:* Mother

CHH-036                      West Point, NY

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West Point Oct. 25, 1859.

My dear Mother

A week ago last Friday I came here and Otis wrote you a letter that night after I went to bed. Since then I have been so much occupied with choring for Otis and visiting the novelties of West Point that I could not get time to write the letters I desired to. I feel badly sometimes to be fully absorbed before when I was engaged in no regular employment. My baths take considerable - the water is down in the entry room of the cellar kitchen. It has to be tempered with warm. My tub sits in my bed room, which opens out of the dining and sitting rooms. The house has two rather small front rooms with a hall and front stairs between they come up from the kitchen underneath the stairs of the front entry. But instead of taking my water through the sitting room (where I am now writing at Otis' desk) I turn to my right and go back into a little entry on the west or back side of the house and that opens into "Lizzie's" company bed room" the only unoccupied room we have and through that I go to my room with the water entering it on the opposite side from this room. They have but one chamber where Otis and Lizzie sleep with Grace in her little crib at the foot of their bed and Guy in a kind of box-bed Otis has made for him, in another corner of the room two "Luthern" windows open into the chamber and one small window at one end. There is a bedroom for the girls partly behind the parlor and in the west by north part of the house. They like this home better than they did the other. My room opening out of this is warmed by the coal fire they always keep here. The whole house is supplied with gas.

I rise at the firing of the gun at 5:30 o'clock - go down and kindle a fire and warm some water as speedily as possible. Otis comes down before it is warm usually and gives me my morning bath in a little kind of a closet about 10 by 6 feet which is under the cellar stairs - opening out of the kitchen. He has a tub about 8 feet long made to lie down in. In this I stand and he dashes two pails full of water upon me and then gives me a brisk rubbing first with towels and then with his hands. I then dip out what water is caught in the tub and carry it out and go out and split wood till nearly seven when I come in and get ready for breakfast. We have prayers when B. is over and by that time it is nearly or quite 8 when Otis goes to his recitations.

Yesterday we got through prayers in time for me to go out and witness "Guard-mounting" for the first time, I have often witnessed parade at night. Sometimes Otis and very frequently Lizzie goes with me to parade. Two or three times I have been down to Baltimore Falls. Otis makes some purchases there. He got my tub and a pail and thermometer there and at another time they went to the mill and got flour - graham and some Indian which are almost indispensable in my diet. I find that almost all the dishes as cooked for the family are spoilt for me either by salt or spice or fat and grease of some kind. But I have persisted in telling Lizzie and till I now usually get my vegetables without salt, bread and "cracker wheat" and even hominy in its pristine purity.

The weather has been very cold since I came till yesterday when it was quite warm and pleasant. This morning the air is mild and bright the most healthful weather. My health continues to improve I think. It is at least as good than it has been any time since I left home. I enjoy the scenery and sights of this place very much. Lizzie and Guy went with me up to old Fort Putman yesterday. You get a grand view from there and we had an opportunity of seeing one of the old fortresses of the Revolution. It is quite in ruins but it gave me a good idea of how forts are constructed. We can see the river for many miles - Can see where Arnold lived - get a complete view of Cold Spring and can take in West Point at a glance. Guy enjoyed the climb much - the first part of the way he held on to his mother's hand but at length ran alone gathering walnuts by the way which he wished me to carry in my pocket. He and Grace are playing here now - I am getting used to their noisy playing now but at first I could not well write when they were about. Lizzie is making Guy a flag - I have got him a staff. She mended a pair of old black pants for me yesterday - I wish I could make my clothes last this winter. She offered me Otis' dressing gown to wear in the house - said he never wore it. This covers my good coat and looks better than the old one which I work in.

Otis went to N.Y. yesterday to get Helen Sands to come up and make us a visit as Nettie wrote she would be there on her way to Deposit, N.Y. to teach. He could not find her - in fact he learned that the Portland boat did not arrive till this afternoon. She may go this way - going by Newberry. She is going to the Rev.

Mr. Wilder's school – he used to live in B. and in Topsham when Rowland and I went to school there. Susie, his daughter was Nettie's teacher in the High School.

Perry Lee wrote Otis a few days ago from Port Ewen (if we read it rightly) a point above here where he is loading a vessel for Aspinwall. He is so fortunate as to have bought a share in and later the command of a brig this time. Otis feels his loss but does not mind it much. He saw Mr. Bacon his agent yesterday. Has not invested the remnant yet. I think Otis lives for something higher and better than the accumulation of money and he is really prudent and saving in order that he may have something to be more useful with and may educate his children.

He and Lizzie spoke of my staying here till next spring. I had not expected to remain so long. Perry wrote Otis not long before I came. He is probably back at Bangor ere this. Dellie sent us a letter in Nettie's the day before I left Hill. He saw considerable of Ella during the Fair at Topsham. I took dinner Wed. and Thurs. with Mrs. Hazard. She seems very glad to see me. Gave me a full account of Oliver's and her father's death. She said that Oliver's wife had sent her a very saucy letter demanding a brocade silk pattern for a dress and a very elegant parasol that was in Oliver's trunk when it came on. After consulting Mrs. Pain Esq. She took no notice of the letter. Wed. night I spent with Harris and King – my class mates at Newton Seminary – Carleton, Rowland's classmate was also there and helped entertain us. I was very glad I went out there – only 6 miles – took the train in the Worcester Depot. Otis will soon be back from Rec. I have taken my bath. Since breakfast shoveled into the wood-house some coal. I now go and get the mail. It is half a mile or more across the plains to the P.O. We are right up by the dock where the ferry boat lands, but you stopped down at Cozzins - Lizzie says.

We are a few steps south of the Academic building and the P.O. is away over by the Soldiers Barracks. This is one of my regular duties to go get the daily and have it here for Otis. I am going to tell you of our S. School and of Otis preaching down at Buttermilk Falls last Sat. and how he and I walked down and he preached again in the eve and I was up here and went to church with Lizzie and at 2:30 took a class of the S.S. while he was down there attending the funeral of a little child. But I must close with my love to all and any abundance to yourself.

From your affectionate son,  
C.H. Howard

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12/27/1859

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-037

West Point, NY

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West Point Dec 27, 1859

My dear Mother

Being desirous you may get a letter before leaving home I wil begin this today tho' I cannot mail it till tomorrow. Your two letters to Ots & myself came in good time bringing the news of Uncle Barney's death [Barnabas Howard, d Dec. 14, 1859, was a younger brother of Charles' grandfather, Seth Howard]. Otis cried out Oh! before he had read far & told us Uncle Barney was dead. It seems as tho' I could see his good natured countenance now but I can never see it again on earth. We are glad of the particulars & have felt like remembering the remnants of the family in our family prayers. We kneel twice a day just after breakfast in the morning when the children are with us & just before retiring at night. Guy kneels down between his father & me by his little chair & Grace beside her mother & Otis begins always with the Lord's prayer which they repeat with him. Naturally enough we felt much attached to Uncle Barney for he took a lively interest in us & in you dear Mother. Still we cannot wish him back for his end was peaceful and he is now at rest in the Savior's bosom. What better words could we wish to have upon the lips of a dying friend?

The members of the Baptist Church pass rapidly away and few come forward to fill their places. May we not hope that these afflictions of the people may effect what prosperity has failed to do - may lead some to renounce the service of the world & cleave unto the Lord. From the distance we view it there seems good ground to hope for better things - an awakening to a sense of the importance of divine things among the people of Leeds. Let us look to the Lord for his blessing.

Yesterday we had our Christmas tree for the S. School at our Soldier's Chapel. It was a pleasant occasion. We have been preparing for it for weeks. Lizzy & I went to Newburgh & got many of the toys, candies &c & then we went to N.Y. & also received presents. Many of the young officers sent Otis a dollar or two to be spent for this purpose. We got it ready to light up about 4 ½ last night. The children seemed delighted. The tree looked beautifully, lighted with wax candles of all colors & covered with glittering toys. While the presents (of which there were 3 or more for each of the 70 scholars including a book apiece) were distributed, the scholars sang many little children's hymns such as we have been wont to sing Sabbath days. When we got home, Guy had the present of a little chest of carpenter's tools from his father - a beautiful little gift - & Guy was perfectly beside himself with delight. Grace had a little tea set. They also rec'd the present of two splendid books from Mr Wright a young officer down here from West Troy. He graduated last summer & came down to a wedding of a classmate who was (with the bride also) a teacher in our Sabbath School.

It has been a pleasant & not cold day today. The sun moistening the surface of the ground by his warm rays. Not enough slow for sleighing. The Cadets were skating on the river yesterday. They were released from duty for one day. We expect to attend a lecture of the Falls today.

Rowland I suppose spent Christmas with Ellen as she wrote us not long since that she had anticipated a visit. I had a Christmas present - a letter from Nettie containing an ambrotype of herself. She has had a bad cold but is well again. She was quite sick with it for a while missing two days of school. She is wishing for a vacation. I sent her no present. Wish the Aeolean could have been transferred to Brunswick as you are to shut it up in the cold. It might have been sent for a New Years present by express to care of Mr Waitstill Meryman, his father. If you had known my wishes before I suppose you would have had it done, but I fear it is too late now.

Otis has finished his lecture to be given in the caves at the Falls, week from today - subject "Ambition". We are to have some concerts by the band given in the library during the winter - 1st one tomorrow (Wed) night - to the officers & citizens exclusively tomorrow eve - to the Cadets & others Sat. eve. - the same being repeated. They are free concerts. The library is beautifully lighted with gas & well warmed with 3 log stoves. Otis & I study the Greek Testament there one hour from 12 to 1 every day.

We were astonished by seeing in yesterday's paper that Capt Lincoln Patten had been saing in the "Piratical Slaver Wanderer" but as we anticipated today's contradicted the report. Someone must have assumed Capt Patten's name. Dellie was doing finely when last we heard which was not very recently.

We all say "Poor Perry!" but he was insured & also saved the cargo. Mr Bacon wrote that he (Perry) lost his baggage.

We called the children up & read to them what you wrote. Guy remembers Uncle Barney at least his visit there. From what you wrote of it - little girl who has been with you Hannah Gould we have hopes that a good work is already begun in Leeds. We were glad to learn of any such good indications from <there>.

You speak of my coming home in March. There is little change of my doing so for if I should leave here so soon as that it would be to go to Nassau. I think Otis & I have written to Vaughan. Hope you will find him in a good state of mind & body. One of the most efficient men in Otis' Bible class - a Sergeant - was taken with a lung fever last week & is not expected to live.

"Papa" (Otis) just told the children I was writing to Grandma Gilmore, so they both came & kissed me to send you & Guy spoke up & said "I want to send one to Grandpa Gilmore too" so Grace echoed it & both gave me a kiss again. Otis said "Grandma had no present for Christmas" - Grace says "a "tiss" for kiss. They have innumerable presents & fun things & their parents try hard to make them good children. Seems as tho' they must be good worthy members of society if they live.

My love to Roland & Cynthia [Gilmore] & little Johnny & a happy year to them & the little one. My love to Father.

Affectionately yours  
C.H. Howard

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3/26/1860

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-038

West Point, NY

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West Point  
Mar 26, 1860

My Dear Mother

By a letter from Dellie rec'd last Thursday I learned that the Legislature had risen and that you & father were probably at home before this [John Gilmore had been elected to the Maine Legislature from Leeds in 1860]. The session closed sooner than I anticipated. But I felt glad that you could go home this early for I knew & Nettie wrote me that you were beginning to have a little anxiety to be back again.

Dellie wrote in a cheerful spirit - mentioned Ella's going to Portland to see her sister Lizzie. Rowland wrote that he was at Bath & Bruns since you were there. Has been at Skowhegan two Sabbaths & was to be at Lincoln for exchange with the min. there so that he could be at Island Falls to administer communion yesterday.

While it is in my mind I will mention that Dellie write that the Worcester's Dictionary - Library Edition - for which I subscribed was ready for me at <Brk>. It was to be delivered at Leeds by Jackson of my class if I desired it but Dellie said he could just as well take it home in his trunk and I would like father to send him \$7.50 to pay for it. I suppose he better send him the \$8.00, however. He will be waiting for it.

Now Mother for a new proposition. Perry has a new vessel to be launched this week & ready for <some> cargo & all by the 15th of Apr. He has written me twice & the last letter came Saturday. He offers to take me out to Nassau & back (including my board during 3 weeks out there) for \$40.00. The ordinary fare is \$35, i.e. \$70 in all & not including board out there which is \$2.00 or \$2.50 per day. Perry says he would like to give me a free passage but he does not own an entire 1/4 of the vessel & he cannot afford to pay out the money now - indeed I wouldn't allow him to expend anything for me. At the hospital here they have advised me to take a voyage & considering that such a chance will rarely if ever occur for me & that I never shall be so at leisure again.

I have some inclination. At his first offer which was \$1.00 per day all the voyage round I decided not to go fearing it would be too expensive. Indeed the length of a voyage will probably be very nearly 2 months. He has written me to come out & back at Inagua [Bahamas] but they only pay 5 or \$600 a year & that would little more than pay expenses as board &c would be \$250 & then there is the fare out & back & clothing. I think I have not written you of this offer of Mr Danl Sargent. Only 17 scholars - I suppose if I was positive it would cure my throat to spend a year there I should not long hesitate even to give up going to the Seminary this next fall.

Perry says I may go out to N. & then if I decide to go to Inagua I can do so & return with him at some future time. I was thinking that if I could arrange to teach 3 months & have \$150 & return with Perry thus getting a cheap passage out & back, perhaps I would do so. Now I should like to go out & I want you to write me immediately whether you approve of the idea or not. If I come back directly I shall be here in season to return to Maine the 1st of June or with Otis.

I have had from time to time about \$40.00 of Otis. He thought I had better not send home for the money as his was not on interest, i.e. all that I would need. And he is willing to let me have the requisite amt. for going to Nassau. But I hope it would be convenient for father to send Otis the money if I should, so write in my next letter. I enjoy staying here much more than I did having got used to the manners of the Post to some degree.

Miss Hellen Lands came from Deposit, where she had been teaching, last Saturday & Lizzie wants her to make a long visit. She suffers considerably from a lower back but looks about as usual. She will stay a few weeks at least. Otis & I went up in the mountains last evening & he delivered one of his religious discourses in the school house where we have been before. We went before tea, which we took at one of the farm houses near the place of preaching. It reminds us of some recollections of Maine families. Otis was reminded of Uncle Barney's very forcibly. The house was well filled & all seemed attentive. We walked back among homes a little after 10 o'clock.



My health has been quite good of late - sometimes had a touch of the soar throat but you know that is nothing very serious with me. What was much more severe was a blister <> outside caused by binding on some mustard for about ½ hour a night. You know how sensitive my skin is to such applications. It was really laughable that I could not bear it long enough to get to sleep when Otis make no account of putting mustard all over him for the rheumatism at times. I took off the bandage from my throat but next day found that it was effectual.

But I am reminded of a very sudden death, by a kind of throat distemper we are having here, of a young lady member of our Mission Sabbath School - the daughter of a Sergeant - she was sick but 2 or 3 days & the first news we had was that she was dead! The funeral occurs today at 2 o'clock. There have been towards a hundred sick with this disease in this vicinity, but it is getting to be past the season now. The medicine I am now taking seems to be beneficial but not entirely effectual for a cure.

I want to hear from home very much. How you found the house & affairs there & how are Cynthia & children & Roland? [Roland Gilmore is Eliza's stepson who married Cynthia Lothrop] Does the new minister meet with success & seem contented to remain? My love to Roland & Cynthia & their little ones. Who has been doing your chores? Wonder whether Silas or George Bates are engaged in the grand "Strike" in Mass. How was Vaughan when you left? [Vaughan could have been the son of Eliza's brother John Otis, who lived in Hallowell. He died in 1861] Rowland spoke of riding to Augusta with him when at H. week ago.

All are well here - children at play. A little calf is a great source of interest to the children. I take care of him. The butcher will have him in 4 weeks. Have you any little lambs or calves? If you will write me Wed night & mail it Thursday I shall get it Saturday. Miss Hellen wishes to be remembered to you. She is writing to her mother.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

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4/11/1860

*From:* Charles Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

CHH-039

West Point,  
New York

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West Point April 11, 1860

Dear brother Rowland

Your letter enclosing Dellie's and the extract from Prof. Smyth's came in time and I have since got one from Dellie. His came Thursday the day of the Fast in Maine. Lizzie, Hellen Lands, Guy & myself went up to Ft Putnam that day. I took his letter with me & leaving them there, I went in search of "Mayflowers" - "Epigaea" they call it here. When I had reached the summit of a hill to the south west not having found any signs of flowers and being rather tired I sat down & read my letter & remembering that it was the day of Fasting & Prayer in Maine, I tried to remember in prayer the College & my friends. After that I extended my walk & hearing some sounds from a farm yard I went on till I found some settlements. It was "Stony Lonesome". I had heard of the place before but never seen it. Otis says you wandered up there he believes. When I came back another way I found some flowers but the ladies had got home long before me. I was greatly rejoiced at the contents of the letters you sent me. Nettie had mentioned that a work had begun - <Lara> Fessenden united by baptism with the Episcopal Church week ago Sunday. I have since heard of one man from the Soph & one from the Freshman Class. Wish Dellie might get his whole heart in the work. Miss Lands came here 2 weeks ago Sat on her way home from Deposit where she has been with Rev. Mr Wilde teaching. But her back troubles her a great deal so that she has not been out a great deal here & the walk up to Ft. P. was quite a task but she took it by installments & got along very comfortably.

We were sorry to learn that your throat was troubling you. There having been two deaths on the Post in as many weeks by a disease of the throat. There have been many cases at the Falls. One little boy in Mr. Wells' store whom I saw a day or two ago perfectly well was found dead in his bed yesterday his mother having come up to the Post to wash for an officer. He seemed unwell in the morning but was in the store the day before. Sargent Rose's daughter about 17 years old - a very pretty & blooming young lady - member of our S. School was sick but two or three days. The first we knew she was dead. The Sargent is the most active & efficient Christian we have in that community & has been nigh unto death himself this winter. Otis sympathizes deeply with the afflicted family.

One of the bandmen lost his little boy of 2 or 3 years in the same way. Otis did not get there till the little one had ceased to breathe but he prayed with & comforted them. He says it was an unusually beautiful child. The man has since attended the Bible Class & one other who has never been before.

Sometimes I have felt alarmed for you but then I remember that you are in the hands of God. I do hope you will not persist in speaking when your throat is sore so as to produce a chronic trouble. I have had a good deal of sore throat of late but it is just a common thing for me.

It almost consumes me however that I ought to go out with Perry prepared to stop a year in Inagua if all seems favorable. I have thought you would disapprove of my wasting another year & such a thought did not enter my head till I heard about that plan at Inagua.

The last I wrote was for them to let me know at Nassau the best they could do. You may have known that they offered \$500 or \$600 a year & 17 scholars. Expenses 250. I thought then that I should go out with Perry for the voyage at least. He sails to N the 25th. Had he gone the 15th as he first proposed I should, I think, have accompanied him. But now it is very doubtful as if I returned I fear I should not get back till after Otis was gone or if I stayed 3 months could not attend your Commencement at Bangor or the one at Brun'k. What think of my going out for a year, Rowland?

Hellen said Jos Chamberlain had entered the Senate. I could hardly believe tho' she got it from his sister the teacher in music at "Laurel Bank" - Mr Wilde's. Nothing could give me more satisfaction than to have you at Brewer when I should be at Bangor. In my last to you I meant to have mentioned Parker's ordination at Hartford. We have read with much interest those articles in the <>. Do you think Parker strictly orthodox? Is it on acc't of their theology that your plans get criticized or only the manner or arrangement of them? I fear I have no very clear ideas in Theology & I hardly dare to think Jesus so liable

to think & feel different from most orthodox people.

Is it for a year that they want to engage you at Brewer or for a longer period?

I was at Rev Mr Geag's yesterday - called with Johnny Weir. Jeanie has recently rec'd a letter from Ella & has given me her miniature to take to her. Tell Ella I will bring it safe when I come if I do not send it before.

Haskell - an officer - is quite attentive to Jeannie. We are all well - Guy always wants to get a word from Uncle Rowland. Takes great pride in having his hair parted like him.

My pen is unusually poor. I hope you will not get impatient with my writing. If I don't go to N. I shall probably remain here till June. Otis & the ladies go to N.Y. this week. The grass is very green here.

Affectionately yours,  
Charles

Perry offers to take me out and back for \$40. You asked us to join with some prayer. I have done so every day since, besides at our family prayers.

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5/15/1860

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-040

West Point, NY

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West Point  
May 15, 1860

My dear Mother

The thought just struck me that you would like a line by "Wassau" as we still call him although his still great stature & military honors entitle him to a little more ceremonious title I suppose. He has come into the yard & now sits down by the "Arbor" in front of the house talking. It is almost 2 o'clock the time for dinner, immediately after which he will start in the cars for N.Y. on his way to Maine. Little Grace just came down stairs from her mother all ready for dinner, hair combed, face clean, draped in a little red frock with a white muslin tire which shows the red through its textures. The children play out of doors a good deal & it is beneficial to their health such charming weather as this. We had some thunder showers yesterday & they left the air pure & the grass & trees looking beautifully fresh & green. I suppose Guy is undergoing the process that Grace has got thro' with & will soon be down <primp> & pleasant. The latter he almost always is. He reads to me nearly every morning. Hopes to get thro' his book before going to Maine. When told I could not come back to West Point Guy said he would stay too & not return till next summer. He cried to have Miss Helen go not to come back. He can't seem to bear that idea of not coming back.

Last Sabbath I delivered another discourse at the Methodist Church at the Falls writing it the previous week. I was occupied in writing part of 3 days. The minister has often solicited another sermon from me but I did not think it best to prepare one but he was obliged to go away & Otis had none that he had not delivered then & so I consented to supply his place. And Otis had to write one for Sabbath evening up here in the Soldiers Chapel where the Meth. minister usually preaches Sabbath evenings. I seemed to be aided & blessed on this work dear mother so that I felt encouraged that I had not mistaken my calling. I think it awful to enter the ministry just like many other professions without any reason to believe we are called to the work.

The day you will remember was splendid. The trees were all in leaf & the fruit trees in blossom. I walked down after dinner beginning the meeting at about 2 ½ o'clock. I enjoyed the hymns which were sung by the Congregation in good old familiar tunes. I feared for my throat but it seems to be feeling as clear after I got thro' as when I began. Otis gave an earnest & practical discourse in the evening upon "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap". My text was "Not knowing that the greatness of God leadeth thee to repentance" Rom 2, 4. I would rather you would not mention my preaching out of the family.

Dinner is ready & I must close. I enjoy West Point much now. Am with a young artist, son of Prof <Pierson> good deal. Perry has probably sailed ere this. He was going last week. The name of his brig is "Lucy Darling". Mr D's wife is now of Nassau. We have heard from Philad. once since then - all well.

Much love to Father & to Cynthia, the little ones with Roland. We often remember you in our prayers & hope you do the same by us.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

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6/11/1860

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-041

West Point, NY

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West Point  
June 11, 1860

My dear brother, [This must be to Rodelphus since both Rowland and Otis are mentioned in the third person]

I have neglected to write you rather for long I think. It is a very busy time here since the examinations began. They have a board of visitors of one from each state - from half the states each year. I have attended the examination of the first class a good deal since the beginning of June. They are through with it now & the other classes are brought before the august board. But what has particularly occupied my time during the last week & kept me even from writing to Nettie which I intend to do as often as once a week was the writing of a discourse for yesterday. I delivered two at Mr. Grey's - the Presbyterian church at the Falls - one in the forenoon the other at 8 o'clock.

Do not suppose I do not think of you often and a great deal because I do not write. I have not forgotten to make mention of you morning and evening in my prayers since I have been here I think. I hope that I am not forgotten at these seasons by you.

William Merrick and Maria with two children - the oldest and youngest Sam and Sallie and a girl - came Saturday eve and will stay till Thursday.

It is rather crowded in our little house but we keep very comfortable. I sleep on a temporary bed in the parlor.

The cadets are examined in studies each day from 9 till 3 without interruption. And after 5 o'clock they have some military exercise such as: riding by the first class artillery drill - battalion drill - firing at the Siege Battery & Seacoast Battery or Mortar drill.

There was a very full house last evening for me. I felt greatly blessed in the work I had undertaken of preparing & delivering a discourse.

William & Maria are going on to Maine to spend a month.

We now intend to start from here about a week from Wednesday. Otis & Lizzie may stop in Boston a day or two & Mrs Hazard has invited me to come & stay a month but I doubt if I stay as long as Otis.

Billy Nowell has visited me here since I was with you and I would like to see him in Cambridge as I go on. Prof Woodman from Dartmouth College is one of the Board of Visitors. He tells me they like Prof Wm Packard very much & that he himself is particularly pleased with him as a man. He spoke of having met with Prof Packard at Bowdoin. He is a Christian man & attended & took part in our Cadet prayer meeting.

Nettie mentioned seeing Rowland & Ella not long since. We are rather pleased with Farmington as a place of settlement for Rowland. Mr Hamilton Abbott & wife - of the Abbott school there - who visited West Point not long since seem very desirous to have him settle with them. You mentioned Yarmouth. I should think a hornets nest would be rather preferable if one had his own quiet & the peace of the community at heart. They have quarreled for many years.

How are your meetings this term? I suspect however you will not be likely to answer this before I go, though if you would mail me a letter Saturday I should like it very much.

It is a delightful day today. We are to have a skirmish drill on the plan after 5 o'clock. We have music by the band every evening out in front of the Supt's house from 8 ½ till 9 ½ o'clock. It is delightful to go out & sit upon the iron settees & listen to such sweet music. Gen Scott is here - they fired a salute of 15 guns on his arrival a few days ago but I have not yet seen him. I should have opportunities enough. In fact he will be at a very large party given by the Supt for the benefit of the band tomorrow evening & I have an

invitation. They are to give him a review tomorrow. I have had the pleasure of seeing several of these "Reviews" as they had one or two for practice & then one before the Board.

I look forward with great pleasure to seeing you & my other friends at home before many days. This is hastily written but I hope you will find no difficulty in making it out. If so you will have a chance soon of shewing it & inquiring its meaning of

Your affectionate Brother

C.H. Howard

P.S. I have some notion of taking a boat direct from Boston to Bath. If I do I shall visit you before going to Leeds C.

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11/15/1860

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-042

Bangor, Maine

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C.H. Howard  
1860  
H Bangor Nov 15,

My dear brother [This letter must be to Rodelphus, as both Rowland and Otis are referred to in the third person]

My school closed last Frid and Sat forenoon I came here. I expected to hear from you before I left tho' I suppose you consider it settled that you are to teach the school out there at \$21.00 per month & boarded. You had better write to Mr Wm Rogers as to the time when he will meet you here in Bangor. You probably won't want to go out before the Frid or Sat previous to the 1st Monday in Dec. Are you making good progress in French. My class read the 1st 4 fables in the last part of <Fasquelles>. I hope you will get knowledge enough of it to be able to read with the two or three who desire to study it this winter or hear them recite it with profit to you both. They expect to pay something extra & thus make up 2 months.

In a letter from Rowland rec'd last night he invited me to come & preach for him either before or after Thanksgiving & thus visit him for the fare one way. Don't you intend to be at home Thanksgiving? If I go I think it better he to preach before in order that I may return with you to Bangor. If I don't go I shall be glad to see you as soon as you can come. If at home Thurs you would get here Frid eve & might go out to Holden Saturday stopping on your way to be examined or to arrange for it if you chose. Rev. Mr Southworth is one of the <Gove>. Dr. Fogg is another & Mr. Freeman the other. They are fine men & Mr S is one of the warmest hearted Christian men. Do you feel as tho' the Lord had given you the grace & the preparation you need in order to go into a community where He has been working a work of grace?

None of the converts made before I left will attend your school but may we not hope that some of them who do attend may become converts thro' faithful prayers & the blessing of the spirit upon humble Christian effort?

The election has resulted much to your gratification doubtless as it has for the greater part of my friends. Mr Southworth is quite an earnest Republican. But he regards the winning of souls to Christ as something requiring more attention from us all - give everything its due attention seems to be his motto & this I would desire to do. Write me whether you have been feeling any different in view of the position you are going to occupy for you told me you partook some what of the indifference which characterizes college. If you continue to go in faith to the Lord Jesus He will give you a sense of your sinfulness & dependence upon him and also a exact sense of forgiveness - only go in real good earnest.

Mrs. Newcombe had a good deal to try her & often I have had hardly faith enough to believe fully that she would persevere to the end. Mr N is a second husband & with no refinement or socialization yet a good natured & talkative man quite self-satisfied. Trades horses good deal. Do you think you can be of help to Mrs N in leading a Christian life. If you are only near to Jesus & will conduct family prayers, it will be a great help, I used to have her lead in prayer first, often reading at night. I have written much upon these subjects because so much seems to depend upon your state of mind. Yet all is with Christ & I will trust that you shall find him a very precious help to you in this & every time of need & that I shall seek & find him the same.

I have a very high & pleasant room here in the Chapel building. Fuller came Monday. Rowland mentioned having just heard from Mother & Otis - all well. Write me soon, this week if you can, send to Theo. Sem. Bangor, Me. Regards to Mr Foot & family when you see them.

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Please tell Nettie that you will see me & I would like to have you bring my Shakespeare & if you have room some other books with my class album. Not important however.





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12/5/1860

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-043

Bangor, Maine

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Bangor Dec. 5, 1860

Dear Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I am going down to make the purchases for you. I found the throat bandages that eve & thought you would want them. I meant to have sent some word to Mrs Newcombe. You did not say anything about your boarding place. My kindest regards to Mrs N. All I could ask for you would be that you receive as much kind treatment as I did while a member of the family. Ask Mrs N for me to read the X Chap of Hebrews beginning with the 16th verse. Tell her I find great riches in that chapter. Have read it considerably lately & last night read a portion of it to my class as they met for a prayer meeting in my room. We had a very good meeting. I hope we are united by one bond - the love of our Lord.

A letter from Rowland came with yours. One from Otis came the night before. (I will enclose them requesting that you return them to me without fail at the first opportunity). I think I will not send them. Perhaps they would not be of so much interest to you as some of your own. I will add that they were all well tho' Lizzie & Guy have had bad colds. Otis has got so as to translate some Hebrew Psalms & is also studying some other theological books. Rowland heard the Meth min Rev & Mrs Fuller on Thanksgiving day. Mrs Alice Wing is with Otis.

Who are your young lady scholars? My regards to Miss Eliza Rogers & Miss Caroline Hart also to Julia if you have an opportunity to speak with them separately. Hope you will make yourself familiar with my old scholars & find them good friends. If you <brook> no pretention to more knowledge than your class you might read a little French with them, seems to me. If you only will be simple - I mean unaffected you will succeed in all relations I have no doubt. This is especially needful in Religion where pretention & affectation are sins.

How do you like the "big boys" as it is sometimes expressed - the young men? I feel very anxious that you get along well, & agreeably to yourself & others. Just be yourself, unsophisticated (in a good sense) & I trust you will be liked. I never found anything bad in you so I conclude that with the grace of God, you will exhibit nothing bad by just being yourself. The fear is of trying to show something for self-glorification. We should never try to show off self. It is not agreeable to others nor profitable to us. In one word magnify Christ and even this unostentatiously. I am in hopes you will enjoy much of his presence. Some time of every day spent in private devotion & meditation is a fruitful source of spiritual growth. In fact it is essential to spiritual life.

Have you got your glasses yet? I must hasten to close. Write me soon. Mr Southworth was here & took dinner Monday. How did you pass examination? I need advice as much as anybody. Constant counsel & I talk to you just as I want my brothers, all to address me, frankly & freely. It is not so much advice as brotherly suggestions that come up as I write.

Very Affectionately Yours  
C.H. Howard

Great wedding here last night - my chum attended. Six hundred invitations a Miss Brown to <Goodenuw> Esq of Lewiston. A snow storm close in the wake rather before my wake, I should say.

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12/15/1860

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-044

Bangor, Maine

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Bangor Dec. 15, 1860 [Saturday]

Dear Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I got your letter last night. I had heard of just what you wrote about Wm & Fred by Mr Hart of whom I bo't two cords of wood. He told me Thursday. He hauled the wood yesterday [Friday] but bro't no further news. I felt very sorry to hear that every thing was not going smoothly but I don't see how I can go out.

Rev Mr Southworth intimated (between you & me for the present) that he would want me to occupy his pulpit week from tomorrow & I don't want to be gone two successive Sabbaths. I hope still you may ride out today tho' it is very cold.

I have thought much & prayed about your school & this difficulty. I feared something in that direction.

I have decided that without doubt the best thing for you is to see both the Mr Rogers & talk with them about their sons. I would previously have a good talk with each of the boys alone telling them there is no need of any trouble, ask them what they want & tell them you intend to do just what is right with them. Get them to talk & then reason with them. Ask them if any of your requirements are unjust. Tell them that it will be a very easy matter for them to make the school useless or nearly so to themselves or they can make it profitable & you are ready to give all the assistance in your power.

Perhaps even now you can get on the right side of both of them. If this succeeds I would call quite frequently at their homes, make myself as sociable & agreeable as possible, assisting in studies when practicable. But if they continue intractable, as I before said, I would talk with their fathers telling them just how they are doing. As they are under good discipline at home probably they would come around. Finally if you can't keep them straight by your own nor their fathers means - having first in private informed each of them & their parents of what would be necessary, then speak to Dr Fogg or Mr Southworth about it.

Mr S will probably set all right either by talking to them or by expelling from school. I had to ferule Wm but afterwards he was a pretty good boy. I came near doing the same to Fred but I finally got to be pretty good friends by seeing them a good deal out of school. Treat <Almira> Rogers like a lady, full grown, & perhaps you will get along well with her, but that family are very sensitive. Better call on them if you can make friends.

Nettie inquired where she should send your spectacles. So I hope you have them ere this. Rowland wrote Dellie he would be up to the <> meeting next Tuesday. Otis' baby's hair is black. He sent a lock to Mother. The writing books were \$100 per doz. I put the address on your wrapper - outside of the package with a pencil. Whole came to \$1.99 I believe. You are of course welcome to all I can do for you in any respect. Just tell me what you want.

I called on Miss <Fairfield> week ago - tell Mrs Newcomb. She was taking lessons on her <nickleodeon>. Do you have family worship & do you enjoy it? Have you been to any prayer meetings? Rowland wrote that Hibbard (who was a model of piety) made it a point to take part of minutes in every prayer meeting in case the <hour> was very fully taken up by others. Not more than this. Great difficulty is in being too lengthy where we take part. Speak brief & to the point is my motto. People are always apt to be too long in remarks. Pray much & expect the Lord to lead you thro' all difficulty if you love Him for "All things work together for good to them that have least".

How goes the French? Have any difficulty in Algebra or Arithmetic?

Secr'y Cobb [Treasury Secretary under President Buchanan who resigned and started the secessionist Confederate States of America] has resigned & Gen Scott calls for a strong defense of Ft Moultrie. Secession seems inevitable. Hope there'll be no sacrifice of principle.

Write me soon if possible. Mr Hart is coming here Tuesday - start early - send me a letter by Rufus. Wm would take it home Monday night. Nobody <has left> school without some trial & some trouble I guess.

Affectionately yours  
Charles

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2/5/1861

*From:* Oliver Otis Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-045

West Point, N.Y.

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West Point, N.Y. [in Otis' handwriting]

Feb. 5th, 1861

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I have a few minutes before breakfast which I will dedicate to you. I presume you are still at Leeds and I hope you are enjoying good health & making father & mother happy by those kind offices which nobody but a son can render. "Honor thy Father & thy Mother" never ceases to apply however we may advance in age. I hope father has got well of his lame back. Rowland or Chum, I forget which, intimated that you are taking care of the political concerns of Leeds. Well, what is the status of the country? Are all for the Union <> Solomon Senior?

We extemporized a large company of artillery here, which left for Washington last week. All the dragoon detachment were taken & part of the artillery detachment, the Cadets horses, four pieces with cacons & accompaniments. They left Thursday about 1 p.m. 6 horses to a piece of ordnance & 6 to each cason & six to the traveling forge & 6 to the baggage wagon. The entire command 80 men four officers & 70 horses. They left here in a westward direction over the mountains. They had fourteen miles to go before striking the branch of the Erie R.R. They leave many, many poor wives & children behind. My <men> only receive pay up to the end of October. I shall expect much suffering in this year before they return. They gave many cheers for the Union as they were crossing the plain of the post & seemed to be full of good spirits. I am afraid of whiskey to a great extent. War, misery, drunkenness & very immoral license always go together. My time is up. Much love to all. All well.

Aff. yr. br

Otis.

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2/12/1861

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-045a

Leeds, Maine

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[Note: Charles opened the previous letter written by Otis and added to it on the same piece of paper.]

Leeds, Feb 12, 1861

Dear Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

Oliver bro't in this letter today having got it on his way home from the Lyceum last night. I found several at the junction yesterday waiting for our train & I expect that Mr Fogg brought some of them up & then took along the Leeds mail as that is assorted on the other road. They tho't it wasn't in a state for me to take up. Laverna was well. I found that the little boy looks just like Georgie. Mother had a letter from Rowland last week. He preached with little difficulty the Sat. before. Rev Mr Perkins would probably help him last Sat. He is my teacher in Hebrew. Betsey Bates continues to be very sick. It has rained hard all day. Leaks in this room where we sit. Mother sits by mending my clothes. I shall have to give up going to Br'k. The sleighing will be ruined for the present. A brief letter from Nettie came with those from Otis. Doesn't Otis' letter really seem like war? Nettie intimates that you are studying hard. Give that gymnasium its due time regularly won't you? Half or 3/4 hour a day I suppose is sufficient. Oliver says they had quite an exciting time last night. Benj Franes waxed strangely eloquent upon the idea of civil war! A young Turner from Turner spoke well in favor of repeal <Pert. Sit. Bill>. There was such lamentations in Bangor over the death of Wm Maltz. Did the College suspend any exercises on the receipt of the news. You [are] met with a loss of modern languages. He was a fine man & much esteemed. I have been reading some. Did you go to Bath?

Affectionately Your br  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Mother sends her love. Said she is going to write you a good long letter next week. Mrs. Benj. Richmond was to be buried today.

P.S. Anything said about day of prayer & fast for Colleges? Hope no offence given by opening your letter.

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4/19/1861

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-046

Bangor

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Bangor Apr. 19, 1861

My dear Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I have been long expecting that letter which you promised. Did you get mine? I meant to have enclosed Nettie's as you desired & will do so in this. She has never written me much about your suspension. Perhaps because I did not relish having you compared with Ed Thompson who was degraded in his habits while in College. His suspensions were the consequence.

I should not have waited for a letter but have been unusually busy of late. Now I have an original declamation to prepare & can hardly spare time to attend to any extra work. I have felt quite anxious at times to know how you are getting along. I hope there was nothing censorious in my letter - I have no feeling to blame you but solicitude that this unusual occurrence may result in good in more ways than one to you. If it could make you a more thorough scholar from a closer application to study. If it could make you a more humble & faithful Christian from seeing how we are all subject to unlooked for events in God's Providence & in addition to these tho' of vastly less importance make you more popular in College, I should be truly thankful. Not that you have any special need in these directions but because all events of Providence may work our good & will work to the good of those that love God.

We have sad news tonight from Baltimore. Some mothers, sisters, brothers, & fathers probably are in deep grief, and it seemed so entirely uncalled for there. Besides those Baltimore ruffians are no index of the South who are I think honest but mistaken & fanatic for the most part tho' I could hardly say this of the leaders.

I attended the Union meeting here the other eve. Sawyer Blake an old Democrat made a sound union & patriotic speech. McGillis made a stirring one but two other speakers amounted to very little tho' they bellowed pretty loudly & were as loudly applauded. The Monmouth Hall (Norembega) was densely crowded.

I've not heard from mother nor Otis in a long time. Mother was sick but convalescing. You will study right over the vacation perhaps & thus make up what you lost at home.

We have a meeting now so I will close this imperfect letter. A recruiting office is open in Bangor. B'r Union has been obliged to secede from that nice block - Wheelright & Clark's (Boston-like-place). Its articles are shameful & shameless.

Tell me of your situation & feelings. You have not yet written <much> <getting> to Yarmouth. My respects to Yarmouth acquaintances. My kind regards to Alf. Mitchell whom I hear from thru Frank Sabine of my College class who saw him as he passed thru Y.

Affectionately yours,  
C.H. Howard

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6/21/1861

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-047

Camp Morrill  
Washington D.C.

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Camp Morrill  
Washington D.C.  
June 21st 1861

My dear Mother

I sit in our tent, shared by Otis, me & our boy Johnson. It is very warm. I hear the music of our band at Parade. I just returned from the city. It is about 1 ½ miles from here. I went down on horseback on business for Otis. He has been drilling at battalion drill for an hour past. The 4th Regmt arrived last night & came up to encamp near us this forenoon. It was very hot & their Col marched them without a rest from the city here under the burning sun. We rested a doz. times when we came out. The result was that 25 or more men gave out by the way and many could but just walk when they got here. They went into a grove near by. Our Regmt turned out to escort them & gave them 3 hearty cheers, 3 times repeated. Otis is well today & we are all cheerful. Many of my acquaintances have turned up in the 4th Regmt. I find College graduates in the ranks whom I knew. Today for the first time I visited the 2nd Regmt which went from Bangor you know. You would have imagined I would have been over there not more than 1/4 mile from our camp before this. But I have not even found an opportunity to write my mother till now. I have written some for various papers in hopes to secure some pay in this way but have not got any chance to make anything. The Maine papers cannot afford to pay.

I think of enlisting in order to aid Otis in making up my salary. I write for him - letters & any thing he desires. Lizzie wished me to stay with him & he had planned for me to do so before we got to N.Y. unless something came up to prevent it. I told him I would be willing to stay with him & render my country what services I could in the capacity of assistant & secretary in his business, provided I could have suitable remunerations.

I stand the hot weather wonderfully & am better today (which they call the hottest we have had) than I have been for some time. I ride horseback considerably. It is a charming country & we have as nice horses as one could ask.

Johnny Weir of West Point has talked of coming on to join our Regmt. Lizzie wanted to come with him as she had rec'd invitation from Mrs Carroll of Washington to come. Mrs C, mother of Lt C, with whom they lived in the same house at W.P. But Otis could not consent. We are expecting orders to go to Alexandria every day & that is 7 or 8 miles away & right in the enemy's country. I was almost homesick down there the other day - no business - nothing but soldiers & they seemingly under some restraint. I visited the Marshall house & found it full of soldiers & in our room were 4 secessionists under guard. I dread the order to go there but then we shall make it cheerful & be contented with our Regmt there. We have prayer meetings twice a week. They are crowded. Great many have for the first time expressed the desire & determination to be Christians. The Cols' influence is very different in this respect from many of the officers whom we meet. He leads in the morning prayer sometimes. Rev Mr <Chicsat> has had a little difficulty which will be reported in Maine perhaps & so I allude to it hoping you will not have occasion to say much about it. He is accused of selling franked envelopes to the men but the facts seem to be that as he has been making change sometimes selling the men paper & he has failed to make the change saying to the men "call upon me some other time & I will make the change" or failing to say this when intending to. He has at the same time given franked envelopes to men as he does to all. He was a good deal <proper> with the business at first owing to a lack of system.

This does harm to the cause for which he would labor. We are very sorry.

I think I will stay away from the Sem'y about a year as I had somewhat thought of doing. Perhaps money will come easier to father then & at least I think I am now in the path of duty. There is a great field for me to do good here. What do you think of it Mother? I hoped to hear before - <> to 3rd ME Regmt with Col [Otis] Howard & I shall get it.

My love to father. Rowland sent us one of the daily Lewiston papers which had a letter in it from our

camp from Capt Heath of Waterville. He was formerly a lawyer. Otis could accept the Brig Genl-ship if pushed upon him but does not desire it. His men all seem to love him.

Your affectionate son  
C.H. Howard

John Keene is well & seems to be happy. He spoke in meeting the other night & asked prayer for one who enlisted with him. I suppose he meant Henry Lumis. John Day makes an efficient officer. He is Lt.

P.S. Our Lt. Col. came today & now I hope Otis will have more leisure. A man of the 2nd Regmt was buried today. He died from hemorrhage. Belonged in Bangor.



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8/12/1861

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-048

Head Quarters 3d  
Brigade  
Bush Hill, Va

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Head Quarters 3d Brigade  
Bush Hill Aug 12, 1861

Dear Mother

We have been notified that we are to move back nearer to Alexandria. Our baggage is ready so I will spend a little time in writing to you. We have two valises. I have 1 coat & 1 pr of pants. It is all I want. I have two undershirts - one of which was a present from Mr Buell aid to Col Howard. I saved the one you made for me.

We have a wagon to carry our baggage. I'm sorry to leave our quarters here when we have a nice house, chambers, beds &c. My blankets were stolen after I got back from the Battle [the Battle of Bull Run occurred on July 21] so I must get some new ones. Genl McClellan's plan seems to be to concentrate his forces more. We are expecting to take a position upon the Mt Vernon soon - perhaps near where we were when we visited Mt Vernon.

Rev Mr Hawse of Waterville Congregationalist was here yesterday with 3 others from Waterville. One was a Mr Nye, another was a student & an old acquaintance of mine. Mr Hawse preached to the 3d Maine on the text "She hath done what she could". Otis spoke after him to some length. The troops have been complaining a good deal of late because they have not yet rec'd any shirts or shoes since the Battle. They are in a very destitute condition. <You> and I don't know but half are indulging in the strange delusion that they can go home at the end of 3 months.

One Regt of our Brigade - Vt 2d - has been separated from us today. It was the best Regt we had. Otis felt badly to hear it go. We are in uncertainty whether he is to continue to have a Brigade or be returned to the Regt. His name was sent in as the 1st recommended by the Congress delegation but it arrived too late for confirmation by the Senate.

Those gentlemen from Waterville dined with us yesterday. I walked out with them after dinner. Mr. H stayed to wash before assisting at the religious exercises of the Vt 2d at 5 P.M. While in our chamber word came to us that the enemy was advancing on the Mt Vernon Road. Just then we heard the report of cannon - the first since the 21st ult. There was a good deal of bustle. We had our things packed & had them put in the wagon. I went to notify the Regts, on horse-back. Otis was away scouting. Mr Mordecai our adj'tant Genl went to ascertain farther with regard to the report. By the time Otis got here he had returned reporting that there was great doubt about the validity of the report. I had had the ammunition which the Regts very much needed & which was at a central place, distributed. No signs of the enemy ever seen on any of the roads or grounds under our charge. So we subsided into our usual quiet. But it gave those ME men a good idea of our life here. It rained so that we did not have services at Vt 2d at 5 P.M.

Yesterday morning a fugitive slave woman, with her babe & a boy about 10 came to us, about noon when those Me. men were here. The owner, a woman, lowlived, ugly tempered, & revolting in appearance, came to claim them. Otis told her at first that she could have them, having inquired how she treated them &c but the slaves declared they would not go back. At first Otis tho't he ought to send them back as they were bro't in by our pickets & could not get on without passes from us. He finally told her he did not wish to act upon it without further orders. The slave cried & besought. The woman was exasperated & talked very harshly with coarse language. Otis sent the woman away till today when she came again. Meanwhile he got orders from H'd Qr's Dept to have nothing to do with such cases. So we told the woman that if she could take her servants herself we could not interfere. She wanted to hire our soldiers to take them back. The slave woman said she would drown herself before she would go back.

Of this again perhaps, Lizzie writes often - would like Rowland to come on to return with her. My love to Father, Roland & Cynthia.

Yr Affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

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10/18/1861

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-049

Augusta Maine

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Augusta Oct. 18, 1861

Dear Dellie [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I have 1/4 hour before the mail closes and I believe I will write you. It rains hard & I will not be likely to be disturbed by callers.

My office is over Deering & Gussun's store opposite the Franklin Hotel. Perhaps you will see mention of it in the Kennebec Journal of this week.

I board at the Mansion House. Col Goddard boards there and I have become quite well acquainted with him. He is a very active & energetic man. Is resolute & perhaps willful. Has his way about the Cavalry for the most part. Wm Turner stands no chance of the Captaincy but may get a commission as Lt.

No recruits for me here as yet. Joshua has been very kind & I am now writing in his counting rooms. Just had a stove put up in my office above & shall soon have it comfortable for all weather. Doubt if I leave Augusta before leaving the State.

Not time to write so long a letter today as I would like.

I had no talk with Nettie or her folks except general. Hope to see them again & you to spend more time with you.

Live near to Christ, Dellie, that you not only be a blessing to the world but that you may pray much for your brothers in their great trials & dangers. We are all in the hands of God. Let us try hard to be found doing his will in all things.

I enjoyed attending a prayer meeting with Joshua at the Baptist.

Rev Mr Haines hopes to go Chaplain of Cavalry. Dexter [Howard, Charles' second cousin] has come from Leeds. I will close with

Your Affectionate Brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Under care of Dr. Briggs, my health improves.  
C.H.H

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12/1/1861

*From:* Charles H Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-086

Camp California  
H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade  
Gen Casey's Div  
Howard's Brigade,  
Alexandria Va.

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Camp California  
H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade  
Gen Casey's Div  
Howard's Brigade, Alexandria Va.

Winter 1862 [Date estimated: Dec 1 1861]

My dear Mother

I have at length arrived at Otis' H'd Qr's. Came from Washington on the boat this P.M. I got into N.Y too late for the 1st thro' train to W on Sat. so I went to Philada. Found all well at Wm Merrick's. They have every convenience in their house at West Philada. I bid them "good-bye" in the morning and went to Rev Mr Barnes - the author of the "Notes to Church". Heard a Dr. Adams in the forenoon - an excellent preacher. The sermon did me good. Found Jenkins, son of Sec'y Bangor Seminary, as I was leaving Church at noon. He was very glad to see me & I accompanied him to dinner. After P.M. service I went to Mr Greble's. Mrs Lt Greble was there & I enjoyed my visit much. I called between meetings & then went there to tea.

I saw the little ones - Eddie asleep on his bed. The little girl was running about. Has a great deal of spirit. Mrs G seems to me a lonely woman. She sent great deal of love to Mrs Howard. I left Philada at 11 P.M. & got to Washington about 6 ½ this morning.

I soon found that Otis had been in Va since last Thurs. His Brigade was taken with two others to form a Division for Genl Sumner. The latter is a white haired man - a Brig Genl of regulars. He named the Camp. There was a rumor that his Div had been attacked and cut to pieces - without foundation.

The bugle is sounding in front of our tent & now all 4 Regts are beating tut too.

We have a good stove. It has been snowing tonight. Otis has had me transferred. Says he will make Gnl and that I must be aid & dress as such whether I get the commission or not.

Capt Sewall is writing to his wife. Otis was anxious to find Lizzie's letter which he did in the pants pocket. The pants were just what he needed. Not some cold today because of the warm condition of our pair. We are hardly settled yet. Otis thinks I better tent with Lt Miles the other Aide. He has two aides. The 2d Mr is a Portland man - Capt Baker. I should fancy Owen better but we could not get him. I've not yet visited the 3d ME before tonight. We are going to have a box for our stuff of Alexandria. You & all friends may direct Howard's Brigade, Alex. Va.

I want the enclosed photograph for me.

Love to all , your son  
Charles

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12/22/1861      *From:* Charles H. Howard      *To:* Mother

CHH-050                      Howard's Brigade  
Camp California

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Howard's Brigade Camp California  
Dec. 22, 1861

My dear Mother

Your letter arrived today, written a week ago. It came just after I returned from attending service with R.I. Rgt. Last night a messenger came from Maj. D<> commanding Ft. Worth just above us to inquire whether he and his men could attend divine worship with us. A letter from Otis was returned as he was with the R.I. Rgt. Afterwards the Maj. came up to our Hd. Qtrs. with me and was here when Capt. Baker our Brigade Quarter Master brought in the mail. Otis was put in command of the division this morning. Gen. Summer is not getting well from the effects of his fall so rapidly as we at first hoped. Otis' first order was to put a stop to selling liquor in another brigade near us. Otis shrinks considerably from the command of the Division and Gen. French of 3d Brigade is an old army officer and feels some reluctance at being under one so much his junior while in the army. On this acct it was at first arranged that Sedgwick of our old Brigade should take the Division. Probably this will be the final arrangement tho' I don't know who will take Sedgwick's Brigade. We all like Gen. Summer very well and he is an old army officer. Was a Colonel in the Reg. Army and is now holding the Brig. Gen. place only during the war.

We did not get Owen for Qr. Ms. He still remains with Sedgwick. He was over to see us today and I rode up to Ft. Worth with him. Ft. Worth was built by our old Brigade and had been just begun when I left for Maine. It is complete now with a large well for water, a bomb proof and a Magazine, all subterranean.

Dr. Palmer, Prof. Whittlesey & Capt. Sewall are sitting by, talking very busily. Here I paused to take supper. We had good bread & butter, applesauce of dried apples & good cheese. We have good loaf bread of the commissary. It is baked in Alexa[Alexandria, VA]. We also had biscuits but they were rather heavy I thought.

I saw Dexter Howard a few evenings since. John K has Lt's straps on and I saw was in command of the company at the review of Heintzelman's Division. His Capt. and other Lt. were on a <>.

While writing the above a colored man was brought to our tent by one of our picket squad. They both came in. The man said he wanted to go to Alexandria to see his friends. He has been at work for a man at Annandale belongs to a man near Burke's Station, says he received none of the wages. Otis told him he could not go to Alexandria and back and gave him his choice to go there or return from here. He chose to return because his wife was behind and children. If they had been with him he would not have gone back.

I was writing about Dexter and John. They both visited the hospital with me. I found two of my recruits there, one with measles and one, poor fellow, died last night of a heart difficulty. It was probably brought on by a cough which he got in Augusta just before we left. His name Fulsom of West Waterville. John said he would now organize a Bible-class, as he was an officer. Says he has not yet received his Commission. Dexter is contented and John is a real good friend for him. The Leeds boys were in one tent together, all looking hearty and well. That was a good review. I had not seen a Division reviewed & so Otis consented for me to ride over 5 or 6 miles toward Mt. Vernon. I attended Drill till about 11 and then rode over alone till I got to Third Maine. I soon overtook Mrs. Sampson & Mrs. Staples in a Carriage, a 4 wheeled Chaise belonging to Mr.<Wittler>. I rode along with them for a little way. I then rode past a Regt. & overtook Mr. Whittlesey who had gone to the Third Maine the day before. The father of of a Lt of Cavalry who got wounded outside the pickets not long since. He was hit by 8 Revolver balls and has 4 in him now. He was taken to the Third Me. Hospital, being the nearest and by far the most comfortable.

The line at the Review extended a mile and a half and we could see nearly the whole. It began to rain a few minutes ago, the first storm since the night I arrived, when I was glad to get the stockings. I have besides them only the thin ones. I thought I had some other woolen ones, but my feet keep warm. I assist the Genl. at drill two hours every forenoon & afternoon. Mr. Whittlesey has used the throat bandages, but I am too well for that. Never was so fat, unless it was when a two year old boy. The rain, I

was going to write, but Mr. Whittlesey remarked, after a moment's silence: 'This is a pleasant sound, the rain dripping on the tent'.

I will close with sending a great deal of love to my Mother and Father from your Affectionate Son,  
Charles.

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12/26/1861      *From:* Charles H. Howard      *To:* Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-051                      Headquarters 1st  
   Brigade

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Headquarters 1st Brigade  
Sumner's Division, Dec. 26, 1861

Dear Dellie      [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I was in hopes to write you a good long letter tonight, but soon after tea, Perry Lee unexpectedly made his appearance and with him two gentlemen from Farmington, Mr. Caswell & Mr. Pillsbury the Editor. They were here last night and today went to Mt. Vernon having stopped with the 4th Me. last night they will stay with us tonight. (torn out) has returned to the 3d Me. with one of the Sergts. who came over with him. John is making up the beds for the entire Company. Mr. Whittlesey will quarter with the Dr. who has a tent near by. You will have received my second letter telling you that directing the 1st to Brunswick was a mere slip of the pen. I directed it very hastily. Today I have been on duty, attending drills in forenoon and afternoon. Brigade drill this P.M. in which I usually take some part. I never drilled any before. I frequently carry orders or repeat them, sitting upon my horse nearer to one or the extremes some 3 or 4 rods from the General. Lt. Miles always attends the drills too. I feel pretty tired and sleepy tonight. I have a grey horse peculiarly marked. Some call him a Zebra, others a Leopard. I call him "Dick." He is large, was thin, but is fast getting on good flesh. He has a good deal of spirit, but is not very well trained, yet the only thing I have to fear about him is that he will not have courage enough. He sometimes runs skittishly. He belongs to Otis. I have not yet got my commission, but have been appointed and wait the pleasure of the New York Governor. I took this paper because it lay on my table and I thought perhaps I might fill even this. The rest are "fast retiring" and I must follow suit. My fox skin robe is very warm, if it was only a little longer so as to cover my feet a little better I should not be cold at all. We had prayers just now. Sewall read from N. Testament & Mr. Whittlesey offered the prayer. We have some rumors afloat tonight which would alarm less experienced soldiers but we have got used to them & being always ready do not get alarmed. We had to have the countersign changed throughout the whole army owing to its being found out by some rebel. Your letter came this P.M. and gave me much pleasure, especially as it told of your prosperity. Good night. Otis says, "Charles, when are you going to get done."

Friday Morning. Otis has gone out and the bugle sounds. I hear it echoed from the various regiments and the drums begin to sound(?). I must go down to Reveille. I was very glad you were having a good union prayer meeting. I hope you will get great good by this means of Grace, if others do not. Again we have had prayers. Mr. Whittlesey strikes up a hymn usually. "All Hail The Power Of Jesus' Name" this morning.

I found, much to my surprise that Howard Randelett was connected with the hospital of the 8th N.H. of our brigade. He saw me and called out the other day just as I was coming from the Dr's tent. He enlisted as a private but gets extra pay for being in hospital, so that his wages are \$21 per month.

Prof. Whittlesey seems to think highly of you, says he has had occasion to speak well of some of your academical performances, but he was not aware you were any relative of ours, much more a brother. Do you like it as well as at Falmouth? Having a good boarding place adds greatly to your comfort.

If Burnside's expedition makes an attack down river upon the batteries I think likely we may have something to do soon. If that does happen(?) I don't know but we will winter here. It matters little to us for we had as lief drill as not, but most of the troops are impatient for an action. Implicit confidence, however, continues and soldiers learn to await orders.

I got a good letter from Mother a few days ago. Lizzie and family I expect are at Auburn. Now for breakfast. Remember us in your prayers.

Very Affectionately Yr. Bro.  
C.H. Howard

P.S. I was pained to see the death of my classmate King.  
P.S. Otis sends his love and hopes you will do well & do your duty.

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12/29/1861      *From:* Charles H. Howard      *To:* Mother

CHH-052                      Headquarters, 1st  
   Brigade

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Head Quarters  
1st Brigade  
Dec. 29, 1861

My dear Mother

Since our Prayer meeting this evening I have been sitting while the rest for the most part have carried on the conversation. Mr George Patten, brother in law of Mr. Whittlesey came over from Third Maine today. He was at tea tonight with us and went to our meeting which was holden in a new hospital tent of the 61 Regt. which had not been occupied.

He and Mr. Whittlesey and Capt. Sewall and Mr. Miles are taking their social segar. Otis is social as he usually is. He inquired when we first came in whether I had written to you or Lizzie lately. Said he hoped Lizzie had not gone and would not go to Auburn. Mr. Caswell and Capt. Pillsbury of Farmington spent one night with us this week. Otis arranged for fifteen cords of wood for his family. We arose as usual this morning about six o'clock. I staid back from Reveille by permission in order to take a bath. I have no special duty at Reveille but go usually for example's sake and to gratify the commanding officer. We had prayers as usual before breakfast. calling in the "Boys" (I mean the orderlies and servants).

After breakfast we rode through all the camping grounds and inspected the men, arms, tents, etc. as far as we could by simply walking the horses through. Before "Church" I sorted some tracts, etc., attended services with 61st N.Y. Mr. Whittlesey began the exercises (text, "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness") but had for an assistant Rev. Mr. Stone of Conn. who had friends in the Regt. and came out to spend one Sabbath. We stood during the service, the men formed in a hollow square.

Afterwards I visited the hospitals and distributed some copies of the Christian Banner to our Regt. Otis started with me but we went in opposite directions. He went finally to a hospital at a home near by and had prayers and by that time our dinner was ready. We expected Mr. Patten and so had some extras today, first oysters and then beans and chickens. The last were "well put together" as we have it out here. The beans took the place of potatoes which cannot be procured now. We have excellent bread and this made out our dinner. After dinner Otis took a sleep and I was rejoiced to have him do so for he frequently loses some sleep and rarely makes it up. He slept till nearly three o'clock, meanwhile I carried some religious reading to the hospital Otis had visited before dinner.

Mr. Patten, with the two Bath Cpts. that were (now Sampson is Lt. Col.) arrived about this time. They soon went up to Ft. Worth just above us, Mr. Whittlesey with them and Otis and I rode over to Clermont which we have taken for a hospital. We have a good many such now. Clermont is a perfect picture of depredation and desolation, but they are trying to patch up the windows and doors to make it comfortable for a hospital. Otis talked to the men in four different rooms, offering prayer in each. We left some books and tracts in each of them. There are many cases of measles. We had a pleasant ride over and back and found Rev. Mr. Adams of 5th Maine here with his son who is from Yale College. They did not tarry long. I ran around and delivered the countersign to the different Col's and then came to supper. Our prayer meeting was very good. Mr. Stone conducted. Mr. W., Otis, Capt. S. and many others took part. There were a dozen commissioned officers of the 61st N.Y. present. We hope to have a log chapel built by another Sabbath.

John is making up the beds, that is, laying 4 mattresses side by side upon the floor. Our fox skin robes are effectual to keep out all cold. Otis presented me with mine. I wish I had one of those flannel robes. We have just had prayers, when Capt. S. read and Otis lead us in prayer.

With much love to folks at home  
Yr. affectionate Son  
C.H.Howard

Dear Mother



I have been entertaining the company while Charles has written you. I hope you and father are well and happy. I don't know yet that Lizzie and the children have gone. I hope the Saviour is precious to you. Pray for me.

Aff. Otis.

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1/13/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-053

H'd Q'rs 2nd Divn. 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

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H'd Q'rs 2nd Divn. 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va  
Jan. 13 1862

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I wrote you two pages last evening beginning by informing you of my gloomy feelings on account of a sad affair connected with our H'd Q'rs which happened yesterday. After our night's rest & sleep the feeling is less poignant and I think I can give you a better account of the matter than that I wrote last night.

Two of our negro boys had been down to Falmouth on horse back to get clothes which we had sent to be washed there. They were riding back when in passing some soldiers of the Irish Brigade who were marching with great irregularity, returning from picket, one of them called out to the boy Charles who was riding in advance to get off & let him ride. Charles rode on, pretending that he did not hear. The soldier then accosted the other boy Jackson with the same demand. Jackson replied that he was carrying clothes to Gen. Howard and could not dismount.

He was always a well-meaning & well-behaved boy - at all times giving a respectful answer when spoken to. At this reply, Charles says he heard the soldier say with an oath "I'll fix you" & at the same time he heard the clicking of the lock as he cocked his piece. He then heard the report of a discharge and hearing the bullet whistle past him & almost at the instant hearing Jackson cry out he looked behind and saw him throw up his arms. Jackson did not fall from his horse however, only dropped his bundle & cap which Charles returned & picked up. The soldier immediately ran up over a hill his comrades calling to him to come back. Jackson rode all the way to these H'd Q'rs & stated the circumstances clearly while being taken from the horse & carried into a tent. He soon began to be delirious and unsensible. The ball & buck shot had entered just below the shoulder from behind shattering the shoulder blade breaking through the joint and coming out in front - at least a portion of the charge, making a terrible ragged wound. The poor boy suffered most intensely & soon began to fail in strength. He rallied a little this forenoon and was operated upon by the surgeons. He was taken yesterday to a hospital but Otis & other of the staff visited him last evening & this morning.

The surgeons amputated his arm at the shoulder; also took away portions of the collar bone & shoulder blade. We would gladly have had been spared these painful operations not believing that his life can possibly be saved. But the surgeons are supreme in these matters. He passed blood from the lungs from the first indicating that this vital organ was pierced.

Jackson was a most exemplary boy, remarkable for his good manners and strict integrity of character. He was also a praying boy and it seems to us all that it will be a great mercy if the Lord shall see fit to take him to Himself at once, sparing him further suffering and an undesirable future in this world.

This will probably be the ultimate issue. The soldier who shot him has not yet been caught - all that is known is that he belongs to the Irish Brigade famous for fighting abroad but here famous for rowdyism & villainy more than anything else.

The mail closes. My love to all. I inclose \$20 which you will please hand to father to keep for me.

Your Affec. Br.  
Charles

R.H. Gilmore

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2/1/1862

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:*

CHH-293

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[Undated fragment: "Early Feb 65" was written at the end of the letter in a different hand than Charles'. Probably written around Feb, 1862]

min. I hear so I must be brief.

Saw a letter from Otis to Lizzie last night.

He hopes I will get a commission & he will immediately appoint me Aide & I will then join him which ought to be done immediately.

It is somewhat doubtful if I get one as the vacancy when I am made Aide remains & cannot I fear be filled. I shall join him in same capacity as before if not as Aide.

I go to Leeds tomorrow & to Brunswick Sat. & I must see Mr. Wiggin Sat. If I can go right down to Bath & come back Sat. perhaps I will do so but guess I will have to spend the hour at Br'k & then go to Bath for the Sabbath in order to see Mr. Wiggin & do my business. We'll settle that Sat.

Hope to see you at the cars & you may mention to Nettie if convenient that I am coming.

Jamie & Grace are not well. Soar [sic] throats. Lizzie & Guy about recovered.

Otis' Brigade at Bladensburg.

Affectionately,  
C. H. Howard

[Notes on date of letter: James was born 1 Dec 1860. Otis' fourth child, Chancey, was born in 3 May 1863. This letter was probably written in between these dates. Otis received a promotion to Brig. Gen on Sept 3, 1861, and his first command was in Bladensburg. some weeks later, possibly February, 1862.]

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2/16/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-054

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp California Va

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Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Camp California [Near Alexandria, Va]  
Feb 16 1862

My dear Mother,

It is as pleasant a morning as I ever saw. The sun shines brightly and the new clean snow which fell yesterday reflects the light so powerfully as to dazzle the eyes. There was no snow upon the ground until yesterday. We drilled upon quite a dry field Friday.

Otis thought the soldiers better not stand upon the cold snow this forenoon & so dispersed with out-door exercises. Mr. Miles was sent to inspect the camps & regiments. I to visit the two hospitals in quarters. One the 5th N.H. is in a brick house around a quarter of a mile from Camp.

At the risk of unnatural digression I will just show you what is transpiring here in our tent.

Otis sits in front of the stove & occasionally, speaks. He has been reading the Bible ever since I came back. Speaks of his missteps. His determination not to seek his own glory. I cannot begin to give you the conversation. It takes a great deal longer to write than to talk. John came in to ask if we would have dinner. He went to set the table and Capt. Sewall came in with some orders from Division H'd Q'rs. He goes over there to carry messages & receive orders, &c every day at 12 N. When he is about, either Mr. Miles or I go. It is called "orderly hours". We have our "orderly hours" also. From 8 till 9 a.m. we receive & sign passes and leaves. Immediately after Parade at 4 ½ P.M. is the "orderly hour" for delivery of our orders and the Countersigns &c to the Adjutants of Regiments. But as I was relating, John soon came back & said dinner was ready. So we walked to the next tent, situated about 6 yds to the left & little down hill. That is double like this one & we have a brick fireplace in the farther <corner>. We have succeeded in getting one that does not smoke after trying two or three & getting smoked out for two or three days. Capt. Sewall now intends to make that his tent & we will dine in the front part.

At the door we met Mr. Miles. Capt Barker our Quarter Master & his clerk Mr. Edwards soon came in and Dr. Palmer who occupies the other similar tent next on the other side (only these three tents in the front rank). Mr. Miles, Mr. Bullock, Commissary, & Capt. Barker in the 2d rank & an officers tent where Capt Sewall's clerk is constantly writing.

Our table accommodates 8 very conveniently - 3 on each side & one at each end. The General sits at the farther end & Mr. Edwards at the foot of the table (next the door).

We have white crockery ware - silver forks - pewter tea spoons - brown varnished tin sugar bowl and milk pitchers.

Today we had roast beef, mashed potatoes, white bread, a bottle of ketchup sent to the General by Mrs. Richards. (We are not short of salt as the Rebels are said to be and mustard is a luxury that Mr. Bullock has lately supplied. He is our steward this month.) Peach (dried) sauce, butter, cheese, also of course on the table. John pours the tea. We have tea & coffee in the morning at breakfast. For dessert today we had bread pudding in a rectangular tin basin 2 or 3 inches deep, and afterward raisins. There, Mother, I have taken you to dine with a Brigadier. I believe I have never described these things before & I hope they will not seem too frivolous.

Otis has just lain down to rest. He said before dinner that he did not rest so well as usual last night owing to a "slight attack of thick pie-crust & warm biscuit". I expect you will think we are like princes & we do live well enough for anybody. Mr. Miles has just sent in the Herald containing some account of Col. Redman & other officers of the 4th R.I. which was in our Brigade but went on the <Brunswick> Expedition.

We had great news from the West last evening. Viz that Ft. Donelson was taken &c but don't know as it

is reliable but we heard also what is true, viz that Sander upon our extreme right had driven the Rebels & caught 17 officers & that Bowling Green in Ky is ours. I will try to thank & praise my God for these great blessings to my country. I thank Him but too little for his mercy to me individually & to my dear friends. You alluded to the great mercy which has spared us all for many years. I hope we shall be ripe for eternity when the time comes.

The express man at Augusta has my Recruiting account, but it is in Lt. Wiggin's name.

I am very, very sorry about Josie Keene. Poor John.

I do pray for you, my dear Mother, but very imperfectly. My heart nowadays is very stony. I am not so thoughtful even of my mother & certainly not of my saviour as ought to be. Far, very far, from it. I have not plead so much & so fervently for father as I was wont to do. May the Lord forgive & visit upon none but me the punishment due my sins. Hoping you will write often even though but a few lines. I remain very affectionately yr son.

C.H. Howard

P.S. While reading over my letter our mail arrived - a letter from Lizzie which I long to open, but will not wake Otis quite yet. I don't get many letters now-a-days & sometimes feel as though I had not got many friends. No matter, however, since those I have are true ones. As ever,

C.H.H.

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2/22/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-055

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Camp California Va

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Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Camp California  
Feb. 22, 1862

My dear Mother,

It is nearly time for the mail to leave but I wished to send you at least a few words. You will see by the papers that all the Generals were invited to Washington to witness the presentation of Rebel flags &c at the Capitol - in celebration of Washington's Birth day. Otis was intending to go but a dispatch came from Gen. McClellan yesterday that information had been received that the enemy intended an attack today. We do not expect it but Otis decided to stay with his command. Almost every General will be absent. Gen. Sumner stays, in fact he is hardly able as yet to go to such a place. He was on his horse for the first time yesterday.

The order came to provide one day's rations & be ready to march at a moment's warning. The Irish Brigade are on Picket & they marched past us at day-break going out to support the Picket. A battery of Artillery also went past a little while ago. An order came that Washington's Farewell address be read to the troops. The General will read it to this Brigade. I rode over to Mr. Richard's a few moments since & got a copy. Too bad to borrow that address of secessionist, is it not?

It rains now but not very hard. Perhaps the rain will prevent the reading of the address.

Ozias Millet has been here. Came from Third Maine in company with John Keene, Dexter Howard & Perry Lee. John is still in doubt about his leave. Dexter is <rugged>. Perry stayed till evening & we sent him back horse-back. Ozias brought me a good nice pair of stockings from you. I was very glad to get them as I have but two pair besides. Ozias left for Washington next day riding to Alexandria in Hospital Wagon & going up in the boat. We may see him again but it is doubtful. I fear he will fail to get a place to suit him.

We saw Mr. Farwell in Washington the other day. To our great surprise he informed us that Rowland had had the Diptherium!

We had a pleasant visit at Judge Carroll's - spent the night. Capt. Sewall has a new tent so that the General & I are alone.

Everybody rejoices at the recent success of our Army but the President mourns the loss of his son [William Lincoln, died Feb 20, 1862]. There seem to be some indications that <Luc's> Stanton is a Christian. We hope he is.

With much love.  
Yr Son, C.H. Howard

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2/26/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-056

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Camp California Va

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Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Camp California, Feb. 26, 1862

My dear Mother,

I have just come in from Brigade drill. This forenoon from 9 till about 2 P.M. I was inspecting the 64th N.Y. Regt. The General (Otis) received a Review from them at first. He then began the inspection with Mr. Miles who took the rear rank & I recorded the names of any who had any dust on their rifles or anything out of the way until about 11 A.M. when Mr. Miles went to Alexandria to get a saddle for himself. I then took the rear rank of each Co. & the Lt. of the Company recorded the names. Pretty soon & before more than half of the Regt. had been inspected Gen. Jameson rode up with his lady - together with Miss Hamlin, daughter of the Senator & other young officers. Otis then came to his quarters with them. I spoke with Gen. J. & lady & received an introduction to Miss H. The Genl. (Otis) then requested me to go on with the inspection & I did not get through till 2 P.M. I was scarcely ever so tired and yet I am in perfect health & it does one good to get tired you know.

I found all at dinner when I came up. Soon after the ladies left but Gen. Jameson remained and witnessed our drill. I got somewhat rested at dinner & rode out upon the field - riding & cutting upon my horse & interested in the drill I soon got quite rested.

An order came about dinner time for baggage to be reduced and the Brigade prepared to march at an hour's notice. Two day's rations, officer's baggage to be one valise. 4 wagons to a Regt. Otis & I anticipated this order & sent our trunk to Washington by Izias Millett last week. Our robes we shall carry rolled up upon our saddles. Officers keep coming in to ask some questions about getting ready.

It began to rain soon after we returned from drill. It is quite warm today. We have had a "cold snap".

Last Saturday, the 22d, a dispatch came from McClellan which prevented Otis from going to the celebration in Washington. It stated that information of an intended attack by the enemy upon that day had been received. So Otis read Washington's Farewell Address to the entire Brigade and gave them some remarks of his own taking about an hour in all. The N.H. Battery from a neighboring Division came to share in our exercises so Otis had an audience of about 4000 men. He did not get hoarse. We had pieces played by the Band before & after - also before the Prayer. A national salute of 32 guns after & all passed off very pleasantly. There was firing in every direction.

We had an inspection of our Brigade by two of McClellan's staff day before yesterday. A terrible storm of rain, hail & wind came suddenly upon us while we were passing the Brigade in Review. After this throughout the day was a Hurricane of wind such as I never before witnessed. The N.H. tents went down with the first gust being situated on a hill. Some of the tents of H'd Q'rs went down. It disfigured our encampment I assure you & disappointed us. Otis told the inspectors that he thought it in judgment because the Regts had worked Sunday in fitting up & cleaning for inspection.

My dear Mother, I do not know as these matters interest you very much. I know they would not were it not for the fact that your sons are engaged in them.

Otis went over to Third Maine & attended prayer meeting last Sabbath eve. They had not had many such meetings there of late but Miss Sampson sent a note inviting him to tea & to the meeting & he enjoyed going. I will enclose (\$50) fifty dollars which I have on hand as I do not wish to take too much with me.

I may write you a good many times before we move. In case I do not, I know my mother's prayers go up for us & that the <> kind & merciful Father cares for her & all I love who cares for me. I wish I were a more worthy child in view of my Heavenly Father and had more of His image stamped upon my character. May the Lord deliver me from besetting sins. Love to all.

Your Affectionate Son. C.H. Howard

If Father wishes to take this \$50 & give his note for the entire amount he has received from me, I should be very well satisfied to have him do so. If you, Mother, would like to make any other disposition of it, I am willing you should do as you like. C.H. Howard

I reserve \$15 for my own use. If I should need more I can send for it. I didn't like to keep too much about me.



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3/4/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-057

Head Quarters 1st  
Brigade  
Camp California Va

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Head Quarters 1st Brigade  
Camp California  
Mar. 4, 1862

My dear Mother,

It is raining hard and just at this moment the wind begins to blow harder still. It is I judge about 8 o'clock in the evening. Since supper Mr Bullock (commissary) Mr Miles and I with occasionally some help from Otis have been singing in front of the open fire in Capt. Sewall's tent, the latter person being in Washington tonight, gone for his pay. Otis left us nearly half an hour ago to come up to his tent to sign some Muster Rolls and now I am at the other table in the same tent. Otis has had to sign his name about 180 times besides other writing upon the Rolls. I prepared them by examination and writing down every thing except the name. It has been a rainy day and I have not been out much. Yesterday it snowed about 1 inch.

Mrs. Sampson, her sister and Mrs. Capt. Watson of Bath Me. came over to see us. It began to snow while they were here so we got a Hospital wagon and Otis rode back with John taking his horse over to the Third Maine for him (Otis) to ride back upon. The ladies were here at dinner. We all attended religious services standing upon the ground about 20 minutes. These friends of Mrs. S. have been over here nearly two months but have not visited us before. Mrs. S. sent back by Otis a letter from Mrs. Merrill and Mary, the mother and sister of the young man of the Third Me. who died a few weeks ago. You will remember that he was a particular friend of mine and perhaps I wrote you that I sent his folks a letter almost every day during his sickness. But by this letter I find that they received none of my letters till after the Telegraphic dispatch came announcing his death. It was a terrible blow to them.

These ladies visiting the Third Maine are going home soon. Ozias Millett was over again last Saturday and got a letter of introduction from Otis. We are all expecting to move soon, as Banks has already done. General Sumner was ordered to Washington today on a Council of War as we surmise. All of the Artillery of the Army of the Potomac has been exchanged within two days. We don't know precisely why. Perhaps to get all of the new & improved rifled guns. Perhaps to get lighter guns. Everything bears toward a movement speedily. I think I have written you since the order for reduction of baggage but "the General" and I had anticipated it by sending away all except our valises before.

My appointment as Lieut. by the Governor of New York came today! I am very glad not only on my own but on Otis' account that this arrived before the advance. He has been quite anxious about it and troubled because it did not come.

Now all is right and I am in the place marked out by Providence I believe for me. Although I love my mother and other dear ones in Maine yet I would not be away from here now on any account.

This is the situation for which I am fitted by natural taste, capacity and education if there is any such situation and I have the contentment which arises from trying to do my duty.

I fear Mrs. Merrill was too inconsolable. I trust my mother with the help of the Lord is better prepared to meet affliction. I heard Otis conversing the other day upon the great gain of those who exchange this world for Heaven. But for his family's sake he would cling to earth more closely. I have no tie of this kind precisely. I have the tie of nearest kindred but no kindred that will seem to be robbed of necessary support if I be taken away.

Just this very two minutes a note came from Gen. Sumner for Otis to come over and see him - he having returned from Washington. It is very dark and rainy but it is not more than a quarter of a mile walk and Otis put on his rubber boots. I took the cape from my overcoat that he might wear that and his rubber coat over it - it being more convenient for that purpose than his own. Dr. Palmer went over to Head Quarters not long since so he will have company back and I did not need to go. The messenger was with

him going over. We don't often allow Brig. Generals to go alone (unless they go into too dangerous places (??)) my sheet is full and I have [inserted undated fragment] hardly begun my letter – so it seems to me. John comes in and says “George is “drowned out”. He means our colored man the cook. He has a log house for a kitchen – not as good as a tent for the rain. We have a little colored boy who is a great curiosity about here now. Yesterday morning one of the Soldiers of the 64th brought him up – inquired for “Brig Gen. Howard” and said he had brought up a boy who had been about their camp for several days. That the boy had vermin upon him and none of the soldiers would allow him in their tents. He had take pity upon the poor little fellow & did for him the only thing he could think of – brought him to the General. Otis took him and had him stripped and washed thoroughly in an outer-tent. The boy was reluctant about putting his head under water so Otis took him up and plunged him in. He got him some clothes, extemporized about here. The boy was very <bright> – a mulatto. Today he got him a good suit of clothes in Alex'a. The boy declares that he came from New York but has given unmistakable proof that he was born & raised in these parts. He is about 8 years old I should judge. I have often thought of “Edward” since I saw this boy. I have not mentioned it to Otis. And today he told us his name was Johnson tho' his father's name was Sykes or something like that. He is a funny fellow and it is very doubtful whether we will be able to make any thing of him. At any rate Otis will have the satisfaction of knowing that he saved one poor suffering little boy from probably death and made him comfortable at least for a time.

We had a good prayer-meeting last night. Otis spoke briefly and offered one prayer. I had some tracts which I distributed as the soldiers went out. They are very glad to get anything good to read. After meeting I called with Mr. Miles (who was very desirous of going last night) upon Mrs. Richards – the near neighbor to us and upon whose land is our encampment. She is a perfect lady. I had met her once before. I took a very excellent tract written by Bishop <McIlwaine> of Ohio – a venerable clergyman and friend of Otis. I carried it sealed in an envelope & gave it to Mrs. R.

I find I must close. I know you are one of the Praying Army at home. May Heaven's choicest blessings be upon you and my brothers & father tonight is the prayer of

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. “The General” has returned and says we move tomorrow! We leave at 8 o'clock. Are going out to support some Bridge-builders upon the R. R. and expect to return to camp again before we go “for good”. We take three days rations. You may not hear so often now but you know in whose hands we are. Otis sends his love and says you must not be anxious about us. I have written an order at his dictation since he came back.

Good Night.  
Charles.

Rowland & Dellie would be glad to know about our prospect of moving I suppose.

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3/6/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-058

Burke's Station  
Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs

Leeds, Maine

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[To:] Col. John Gilmore, Leeds, Maine

Burke's Station  
Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs  
Mar. 6th 1862

My dear Mother,

As I informed you of our situation we went out to guard the building of the R.R. bridge across the Accotink. We spent two night in the woods there & today advanced I have been riding all the afternoon. Was sent with about 2 companies of men - part Cavalry, to guard a certain approach from Fairfax Court House where the Rebels still remain. I joined Otis at Fairfax Station afterwards & remained with him to this point where we will remain tonight.

We have one Regt. at Fairfax Station. They drove in the Rebel redoubts today - this P.M. Another Regt. is about half way up & a third about ½ mile up. The 61st N.Y. is way back at Camp California. Capt. Sewall goes back there on the train tonight. Providence has favored all our undertakings. We are with a family at the Station. A little baby dozing - father holding it - mother cooking us a supper which doubtless we will relish.

I thought I would scratch you a few lines. We got a shot at the grey-coats & Mr. Miles is chasing some now. We shall probably return to Camp for a fair start.

Meanwhile & always I hope you will not be anxious about us but will pray for us constantly. Love to father & all - to Rowland & Ellen when you write. Otis writes to Lizzie tonight. I am perfectly well after a hearty dinner of bread & beef.

Your Affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

Your letters - one Feb 25th came out to Burke's to me & one the 2d March came here yesterday. I'll write today.

Camp Cal.  
Mar 8th '62  
(Sabbath) [Mar 8, 1862 was a Saturday]

My dear Mother

This letter was sent down by Capt. Sewall but he had to come back directly & didn't mail it. We all got safely back last night.

Yr. Affec. Son Charles

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3/7/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-059

Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs  
Burke's Station

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Genl Howard's H'd Q'rs  
Burke's Station  
March 7 1862

My dear Mother,

I wrote you last evening & again this morning a few lines but I do not like to go to rest till I have put down a little more for you & my dear ones at home. Since supper I have been looking over papers found in the wallet of a Rebel horseman shot by our men today. I was on the spot this afternoon & saw the pool of blood in the road. I also had his body brought into the camp of the 64th a distance of about a mile and it is a mile from here to the 64th. He was shot near <Elzeys> where we stopped a little while on our way to Bull Run. It is about 1½ miles from Langster's where we stayed one night & where the Rebels now are in force. I got the word that a man was shot while on my way to examine the Picket in that direction. The General had not great confidence in the Major who was in charge of two companies upon that road & therefore sent me to see to the disposition of the pickets & the force under his command. As soon as I ascertained that the man was not dead I found the Dr and sent him forward immediately.

Camp California  
H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade  
Monday Morning Mar 10.

My dear Mother,

I was interrupted in this letter by a false alarm, for at that time I turned out our entire Brigade. Did not sleep that night afterwards owing to the arrival of Kearney's Brigade which came to relieve us. We were pretty tired when we got back Saturday night. Yesterday we rested. I saw Dexter, John Keene & others at Third Me. & Perry came back with me returning at evening. The two last have colds but John felt encouraged about his wife. Otis is now in command of the Division. It is now one o'clock A.M. About midnight a Telegram was brought over from Division H'd Q'rs for the Division to be ready to march at 6 A.M. with 3 days cooked rations and 60 rounds ammunition to reach Brimston Hill tonight. This is across Pohick Creek and nearly off against Fairfax Station & on the left - not far from where we were but we go a different route - past Bone Mill on the Accotink. Otis went immediately to Div H'd Q'rs & left a great deal in my care & for us (his staff) to arrange & do. I meant to have written you yesterday but callers &c prevented. I am constantly interrupted now.

I will inclose with this, my commission, which you will please preserve. I have not drawn any pay on it yet but should have gone to Wash'n today.

Your letters I was very glad to get & one from Dellie yesterday. I am glad to hear of the good work at No. Leeds. Gen. Sumner has an Army Corps & perhaps Otis may continue in command of the Division. He doubts his ability but I am confident he would do as well in that position as in the one he has been occupying. I judge that his conduct on our late expedition gave good satisfaction to his commanding Generals.

Otis rec'd a good long letter from Ella while we were at Burke's. I have a great deal that may be of interest to write you some other time, Providence permitting. I shall probably carry one of the Pistols taken from the Scout who was shot as mine was stolen while at the engravers the other day. I like this temporarily. I have only about \$8 with me - all I need.

We shall not make a "forced" march - not so as to weary the men. I should estimate the distance as 12 or 15 miles.

We are in the hands of merciful Heavenly Father - one who is wise & holy and has said that "all things will work together for the good of those that love God". We think we love Him and that you & our brothers & other dear ones also love Him. We hope that father's heart will soon be put right if it is not for who would

be found fighting against God. If any accident should happen I desire my effects - any & all property to be at your service Mother and I should desire to help Rowland & Dellie with it if they need it. Above all things let there be no disagreement on account of it. It will be yours to dispose of as you like. I have perfect confidence in Father. My love to him, to Rowland & family, to Dellie, to Lizzie & family - I shall try and write the latter -, to Roland & Cynthia & fam. This may seem a very serious letter but I am not in the least downcast. I had not mentioned these things & it can do no harm.

With great love to my mother. Your Affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

I send a Herald to Father today.

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3/12/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-060

Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs  
Union Mills, Va

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Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs  
Union Mills Va  
Mar 12 1862

My dear Mother,

It is late & I am rather tired & sleepy but I wish to tell you where we are and that I crossed Bull Run several times today. Much to our disappointment Gen. French's Brigade was permitted to go ahead of us to occupy Manassas & we were stopped here. But Otis & I rode down & viewed the many deserted camps and the strong position of the enemy there. Many empty log houses are all standing and we found considerable provisions. Our wagon train has dreadfully <displeased> us by not arriving till 11 o'clock tonight.

Gen. Sumner has gone to Fairfax Ct. House to a Council of War. Meanwhile Gen. Howard is in command of the Division. The Army Corps arrangement has not yet <been> <>.

Our H'd Q'rs are in the house of a union man tonight.

Our train not coming up we had to send out throughout the surrounding country for cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry &c for the Division. It was rather hard for us to get the post of Division Quarter Master, commissary & commander too.

It is a great wonder that the Rebels left their strong hold. We took one of their soldiers, a deserter today. He says the talk was that they would make a stand at Gordonswills - 60 miles from Manassas. But a colored man who came last night in the night says they have 20,000 at a place about 10 miles from Manassas.

We expect to march right on. The Rail Road which is broken up - rails & bridges gone between Fairfax Station & here will immediately be repaired.

I slept soundly last night & hope to do so tonight by the side of Otis upon the floor. It is moonlight. Otis is having rations distributed. It has been warm like June today. I can hardly realize that you have heaps of snow upon the ground.

Last night after I wrote you some good singers from one of our regiments came & gave the <service> serenade.

We had a rabbit for breakfast. He came running down the hill & all the soldiers that saw him started in pursuit but the sentinel at our H'd Q'rs pierced him with his bayonet.

We hear of other union victories in the South. I hope we will all be truly grateful.

Your Affec. Son,  
C.H. Howard

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3/13/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-061

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Union Mills, Va

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Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Union Mills  
Mar 13th 1862

My dear Mother,

It is raining a little this afternoon & I cannot go out scouting. My throat also is a little sore so that I am very willing to sit down by the fire in the kitchen. We are very busy. Otis has the Division still but Gen Sumner will probably be back tomorrow. French's Brigade of our Division has gone forward this afternoon beyond Manassas. Many, Many people are coming in for protection. We give them all protection if they will take the Oath of Allegiance. Little while ago the General & all the rest were about & a man came in saying his family got no rest last night. He had a gold watch stolen from him & many other things. He was glad to take the Oath, and he said he had always been a union man. He cried like a child. I gave him a writing after having the oath administered. Mr. Miles on a scout this forenoon found the H'd Q's of a Rebel General - some 60 bushels of grain & other things - a nice piano, there.

We have three Batteries & one Regiment of Cavalry in the Command besides 3 Brigades of Infantry. Dr Palmer, Capt. Sewall, Cap. Barker & others have gone down to visit Manassas Junction. I should have gone too but the Gen'l was away & I could not leave.

About a dozen "Contrabands" came in this forenoon - several were employed by officers, the rest were sent to Gen. McClellan. They report about the Rebels crossing the Rappahannock - say there is only a R.R. Bridge that the wagons had to be drawn across by hand. Mrs. Dander is working here in the Kitchen. She seems to be indefatigable. She & her husband both look very happy & are willing to do anything for us or our troops.

She just told me that the Rebels played cards a great deal. She has been there all day long & often they would sit up nearly all night in the same occupation. She evidently thinks our Soldiers are much better men. We had prayers here before taking our Breakfast.

Dr. Palmer is Medical Director for the Division but still remains & messes with us. Dr. Knight being the ranking Regimental Surgeon takes Dr. P's place as Brigade Surgeon.

As we feared Capt. Barker signally fails in his (Quarter Master's) department. Our wagons are almost always bothering us. And half the time since we started we have on this acct been obliged to hunt up forage for our horses & food for ourselves. Dr. Knight is a good Christian man, very good natured & pleasant. He comes from Franklin N.H. near to Hill where I attended the water cure.

We get no letters. I have not written to Dellie & Rowland. Wish you would communicate anything of interest which I write if I have time. Heintzelman's Division at last accounts had not started so that the Third Maine is left behind.

Capt. Sweall just came back from Manassas Junction & said the country is flat there - no military position. The rugged hills about Bull Run are the only strongholds. The Regiments are now having their <crossing> parade. I can see them from the window. The people admire the music much. Say the Southern troops have no decent Bands. Many of them no music - not even fife & drum.

Capt. S. thinks there is a prospect that Gen. Howard will have the Division. He has been talking with Capt. Taylor the Division Adj. Gen'l.

We should have gone to Rennington yesterday had it not been for want of provisions & forage.

News has just arrived that Gen. Kearney is to command the Division. Otis is very much disappointed. Would rather have had any other General over him. He is a man reported to be without principle,

morally. He took advantage of our start to the Rebels - relieving us at Burke's & pushed on to Fairfax Ct. House, Centerville & Manassas. Gen. K. is from the Jersey Brigade. Has one arm only. John <> as that the 61st N.Y. is bringing in a Secession flag.

Gen. Sumner is to have this - Blenker's & Sedgwick's Brigade.

I will not write more tonight.  
Your affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard



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3/15/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-062

H'd Q'rs Howard's  
Brigade  
Union Mills

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H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade  
Union Mills, Mar 15 1862

My dear Mother,

It is raining hard today and I am very well satisfied to stay in the house. Otis & Mr. Miles went away after dinner to visit Centerville. I was there yesterday with Lt. Col. Barlon 61st N.Y & Adj. Gregory of the same Regt. There were a good many forts & the place has changed much in its appearance since we were there in July. We went on to Bull Run & fording the stream where the 2d Maine waded thro' saw their Battle ground. We then passed on to the spot where our Brigade was engaged. It looked quite natural. Some soldiers & officers were disinterring the body of Col. <Cosuron> not far from the place where I saw him die. A negro was there who helped bury him with five others.

In passing over the Battle-field I found some human bones. I could discern the trenches where many had been piled in together. I saw some red flannel near where the bones were, which told that the hated Zouaves had there bit the dust & proved the report that the rebels refused to bury any with red shirts or red breeches.

Some of the 14th N.Y. were there with shovels burying the bones in the vicinity of where they fought so desperately. I came back in the direction of Manassas Junction. Took dinner & <boarded> our horses at a house where Gen Toombs of Ga. (formerly Senator) had had a room. The women seemed to love the old Union best. The man, her son, was not very intelligent & did not seem to look beyond present interest & that certainly was for our cause. Coffee had been \$1.00 per pound; salt \$4.00 per bushel & not often obtainable at that.

Today is Saturday but we are ordered to march back to Fairfax Ct. House tomorrow morning. Banks is to go in this direction with his Corps d'Armee. We expect to go down the Potomac in boats. Perhaps we shall land at Yorktown & take Richmond in the rear. No Division is in advance of ours. Some Cavalry have gone in pursuit of the Rebels but are expected back tomorrow.

I have mentioned that Gen Sumner is in command of an Army Corps I think. It consists of this; Sedgewick's (that was Stone's) & Blenker's (the Germans). Mr Miles has an appointment as Capt upon Gen Sumner's staff. Gen Howard was loth to part with him but did not feel willing to stand in the way of his promotion. Lt. Scott (from Brooklyn) of the 61st N.Y. takes his place. Mr Scott is very young but prompt, active & deferential. He is not a pious man but I think he will not be uncongenial. He has previously asked the privilege of volunteering on our staff. Did not get along pleasantly with his Capt who was very young & arrogant perhaps.

Gen. [Israel B.] Richardson (who has had a Brigade in Heintzelman's Division a Brigade of Michigan troops) is to command our Division. We hoped Gen. Howard would have it but Richardson is much older & saw service in Mexico. He has not been a very popular man with those who have been brought in contact with him but he is undoubtedly courageous. In fact he is known in the Army as "fighting Israel."

I have I think mentioned the <Priest> family where we are quartering. They have seemed really happy since we came. I have had opportunity to hear from & send letters to their daughters & friends in Penna.

Mrs. Sanders came to me this morning for the General's name in full. She asked it with tears in her eyes saying she wished to remember him all the days of her life & to tell her daughters about him. I told Otis that she asked for his name & so he not only wrote that but wrote a protection stating that they were loyal people & signed it. A great many people have similarly taken the oath of allegiance to the U.S. They then receive our protection.

Gen. Meagher (Thomas Francis - the celebrated Irish patriot - name pronounced "Marher") is one of the Brigadiers of our Division. Gen. French of the Army (an old artillery officer) is the other. Gen. Howard is

now temporarily in command of the Division, Richardson will probably join us either at Fairfax Court House or at our old Camp. Since we have been here we were very glad to get a few words from Rowland. Our letters will be directed to Alex'a. till further notice.

We found a great deal of forage (corn &c) in the deserted encampments. Our men have many of them got tents to protect them while here. We might have gone into their good warm log houses which they left generally untouched but they seemed filthy & we had no desire to occupy them.

With love to Father & kind regards to Mr. & Mrs. Chapin and the hope that I am remembered by Roland & Cynthia & other dear friends I will draw my hastily written letter to a close. I wrote upon a book in my lap. My throat is about well. Otis is well. We are to have oysters for supper.

Very Affectionately Your Son.  
C.H. Howard

P.S. I have read today a good letter from Rev. Mr. Fisher to Capt Sewall telling about the glorious revival of religion in Balto. He mentions also the work at Farmington. Has this hour been a few drops at Leeds we will hope for a more plentiful shower.

C.H.H.

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3/18/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-063

H'd Q'rs Howard's  
Brigade  
Camp Manassas  
Near Manassas  
Junction, Va

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H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade  
Camp Manassas  
(Near Manassas Junction)  
Mar 18, 1862

My dear Mother,

I sent away my first letter written here last evening this morning just before receiving one from you written after your visit to Farmington & Auburn. One came from Lizzie of still later date. Your letters were never more welcome. We devour every word, with eagerness.

It is a beautiful day - like May mornings at home - dry as the last of May.

Otis & I talk of going down to M. Junction this morning. Gen. French has his Brigade about 1 ½ mile beyond. Our wagon came up at day-light this morning. Had been capsized in the night & nearly demolished our little baggage - my better coat was there & got a good deal soiled but not torn. We have heard from Fairfax Ct. House but not a word from Banks yet. We must stay till he comes. Capt. Banks who is always about when we want him, came up this morning & now attends to delivering the forage his (Quarter Master's) proper business. Our door is wide open the temperature is so mild. Aunt Barny Howard is gone. Otis remembers that he hoped he might see her once again. We fear Rowland is overtaxing himself. Mrs Sewall wrote the same about him that you did. Your arrangement about the money was perfectly satisfactory. I was glad you alluded to my letters in such a way that I could know which ones you had rec'd - for this reason that I wish to know what to write over again. You had not got my commission &c, I presume. My letters are dated at the different camps & I shall only need to have you mention the Camp in order to tell which letters you have got.

Our troops had a terrible march Sabbath day. Last night we had the quietest camp ever known in a Brigade. These are the best quarters our troops have ever had.

Mr. Bullock (our Commissary) just came in with a small bottle of nice honey & a "pound cake" (as you used to call them) sent him by his wife. We are indebted to her for many such little luxuries. They look out of place however when we have no dishes & had only hard bread & ham for Breakfast.

3 ½ P.M. Tues Mar. 18, 1862

We rode to Manassas Junction. It is a very extended table land. Very few points of elevation - those have fortifications upon them. Most of the Rebel works which we have seen compare unfavorably with our forts about Washington. There is a mass of ruins at the Junction. One old steam engine. The houses are burnt to the ground & they seem to have attempted the destruction of all they left behind. Our men have found considerable flour with <> broken open & flour scattered about. Our men are bringing in the sacks upon their backs. A Daguerreotype view of Manassas with Gen'l French's Command was taken yesterday. We saw Gen. F. He has his son for one of his aides. This morning Gen. F. sent a body of cavalry & 100 infantry in hopes to capture 40 Rebel Cavalry who have been prowling about. We hear that Gen. Banks is upon Little River Turnpike so that we expect to be relieved tomorrow.

It will not be pleasant going on those transports. I wish we could be allowed to march straight on to Richmond.

The sun shines into our (south & west) door very warm & pleasant. The troops are contented & happy.

I was glad you saw Ozias Millett. I am glad to hear such good news from his daughter. A Col. has just come in who has been in Alex'a. He says he saw good many sad partings as the troops embarked on

the boats.

A namesake of ours came to us at the Junction this morning - and we soon recognized him from his acct. as a man who lived last summer just outside our lines & was taken prisoner with his wife & little child not long after Bull Run battle. One little boy escaped & he has never heard from since - inquired of us whether he was alive, we did not know. He has been a prisoner at Manassas until now. The other day he escaped in the smoke of the conflagration. He now wants to get his wife & luggage transported back to his home.

Gen. Richardson has Mr. Miles with him. His Adj. General has arrived today. He seems to be an agreeable young man.

We have a great many contrabands. One employed by Dr. Knight 5th N.H. has been a preacher. Dr. Palmer takes good deal of interest in the negroes. He has employed one whom I should not have suspected as having any negro blood in his lines. He is as white as most people of dark hair & eyes. Has whiskers & his hair is not at all wooly. He is a slave. I am sorry for this delay in our advance. I fear we will not get through in June. We expect one dreadful battle.

May the Lord take us in hand & deliver our land from this scourge. If you knew how much joy your letters give us you would write often as possible. You will direct as before.

Your affectionate Son,

C.H. Howard

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3/26/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-064

H'd Q'rs Howard's  
Brigade  
Camp at Manassas  
Junction

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H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade  
Camp at Manassas Junction  
Mar 26th 1862  
Wednesday

My dear Mother

Just after mailing a letter to Rowland yesterday morning we received orders to march to join with Blenker's Division & meet Gen. Sumner (now commanding a Corps) here at M. Junction. We started about 8 o'clock & expected to go on towards Warrenton Junction last night but Gen. French who had been here was moved on & we will follow this morning. He went to Bristoe's Station last night where Otis & I rode down & saw him. There is a force of 4000 Infantry & 2 or 3 Mounted Cavalry with artillery at Warrenton Junction. We shall arrive there today & fight unless the enemy moves away. Next day our Brigade will lead in making a reconnaissance until we find just where the Rebels are in force.

We slept warm & comfortable last night though water froze in our pail. We have a tent-fly (a strait rectangular piece of canvas) which we stretch over a pole supported by 2 upright crotchets. We are in some pines where the grass is quite long & dry. We are really a mile below Manassas Junction.

I am writing upon a wooden stool. Thought I would send you a few words. Not knowing when I would have another opportunity. Gen. Banks is expected here every day & then it is our expectation to return to Alex'a. & embark down river as other Corps have done. If we get to fighting, however, perhaps we will be like some dogs I have seen, hard to "call off" so we may keep on to Richmond in this direction.

Dr. Palmer then I, then Otis (middle), Capt Sewall, Mr. Scott (aide) slept side by side. Mr Ballock commissary was along at our feet.

John says "Breakfast is ready, good & <nice> & cooling off fast". General is studying his map.

I will close with a great deal of love to all. I commit you to my Heavenly Father. Twas happy to see the <resignation> of your last letter. Otis is full of business.

Very Affectionately, Your Son  
C.H. Howard

N.B. Blenker's Division is beside us.

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4/10/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-065

H'd Q'rs Howard's  
Brigade  
Ship Point, Va

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H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade  
Ship Point, Va.  
Apr. 10 1862

My dear Dellie,

I think it is not long since I wrote to you but I fear I will not have so good an opportunity of writing long. It is a moon light night after 3 or 4 days of cold north-east storms. We are about ½ mile from Ship Point which is now occupied by Meagher's Brigade. This Point is about 15 miles from Fortress Monroe by water and some 25 by land. I rode back some 6 or 7 miles with the Gen'l. & Mr. Scott this morning. You will be surprised to know that we had to get off our horses & run to keep warm. And yet the Peach trees are in full bloom - a new sight to me. They are a deep & beautiful pink color. They are the only relief to the miles of pine forests occasionally interspersed with live oaks. We have got a large force on the road "Cordoroying" it, i.e. paving it close with small round huskers cut the width of the road & placed cross-wise.

The entire surface for miles is underlaid by "quick-sand" which give way as soon as teams begin to move over the surface. Such depth of mud and such frightful roads I never saw.

You will infer the fact that the supplies of the Army come this way now. We first landed here. I was the first one who stepped on shore. Now we have a harbor full of all kinds of shipping except that of the largest draft which cannot come up. The "siege train" with the heavy guns will probably be landed tomorrow. As soon as the landings are perfected so that sufficient supplies of all kinds - ammunition &c can be landed & the road such as to transport them the siege of Yorktown will go on. We hear that the Rebel troops have been concentrated there & that Johnston is in command.

The news of victories at Island No 10 & near Corinth reached us today. We hope it will prove to be true.

Oysters are to be found here but the soldiers take all they can get. We have had one or two messes - best I ever tasted. Our troops are in bivouac in the pines. We (the Gen'l. & Staff) occupy a two story house - one room below & one above. The man seems to be poor & ignorant but owns 15 negroes and 200 acres of land. The soldiers last night took the only sweet potatoes <they> had for <mess>. They were buried out in the field - a custom they have here.

I tell you Dellie you do not begin to know the horrors of war. I have seen many suffering families today. The soldiers are robbing & marauding in spite of every effort to the contrary by good officers. Not as much our Brigade as others. There are two or three Corps out on the main road from Hampton to Yorktown into which this one from here leads. Some of them are close upon Yorktown & are firing away with the cannon at intervals every day. Whenever anyone appears above the Breastworks our sharp shooters are ready. About 30 wounded men will be brought down here tomorrow. They will make hospitals of the Rebel Quarters (log huts) at this Point.

Our horses arrived yesterday. They were on board the <C?ton> which has 4 companies of the 5th N.H. & has not yet got in. The horses were debarked at Fortress Manor & came round by land. We thought of making our H'd Q'rs on that boat. How Providential that we did not. Though I believe had we been on board of her we would have had her here before this.

We had the first newspaper today we had seen for a week. I suppose people are looking with intense interest for news from Yorktown. Had not Government crippled McClellan by detaching 1/3 of his whole command & the best of that, after he had got his plans all matured & had himself come away to carry them into execution, Yorktown would have been taken ere this. McDowell was to land just above & make a simultaneous attack. The President (so says Col. Colbon Gen McC's aide de Camp) promised solemnly that he would not interfere with his (McClellan's) plan or diminish his force and then just as soon as he got down here out of the way, McDowell's Corps upon which he put much reliance was without

<one word of becoming detached>. This necessitated delay for other plans & preparations.

All are in bed, except myself & John, so I think I will close. You will probably be at home by the time this would reach Leeds, so I will direct there. I am feeling quite well tonight owing I think to a change of diet. I have not been sick but we have almost all been troubled with bowel complaint. The oysters, eggs, milk &c are the best medicine for us. We have much, very much, to be thankful for. Tell me whether anything new occurred at College & all about the close of the term. Any increased religious interest? I hope South Leeds will not escape without a visit from the Lord for the awakening of both those who profess Christ & those who continue to deny Him.

With great love for mother & father & for all inquiring friends a kind remembrance. I am Your Affectionate brother,  
C.H. Howard

P.S. My love to Roland & Cynthia & their little ones. I was sorry to hear that Roland lost his horse. Is it replaced by another yet? The dogs are barking tonight but all else is quiet.

C.H.H.

Otis is very well.

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4/30/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-066

H'd Q'rs Howard's  
Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott  
Near Yorktown, Va

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H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott  
Near Yorktown (Va.)  
Apr. 30, 1862

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

Your good long letter written 24th Inst. And mailed 26th came just before dinner. I have just finished reading it, got pen, ink and paper from the office tent, brought it to our dining table which is under a fly which has bark walls, making a very comfortable house being the portico to our tent (Otis, Capt. Sewall & myself tent together). We have a fire in front. It is built a little one side today owing to the wind - since noon it has begun to rain.

This forenoon Otis & I went up near to Gen. McClellan's H'd Q'rs, where the 5th N.H. is engaged in making gabions, in order to muster the Regt., it being the last day of the month when it is necessary to muster them in order that the pay-roll may be rectified. I was pretty tired when I got back (It is two miles or more up there), but I took a lunch and then went to each company of the 5th N.H. encampment here and mustered the sick men who were remaining in camp. I then came back and slept till your letter arrived. So much for today. There was a report last night last night that Yorktown was evacuated. It grew out of a slight withdrawal of a portion in front of Smith's Division where the fighting had been pretty severe between the sharp-shooters.

I hardly know why people have not confidence in McClellan unless it is that many read the N.Y. Tribune which has from the first been working against him. You never would have reason to complain of him as of Grant. And this army never went to rest a night or could be caught at any time of day in the way that Army was caught at Pittsburg Landing.

If McClellan is not meddled with and the enemy does not run away suddenly without attempting to fight, by the blessing of God, I believe Yorktown must as surely be ours as there is a sun in the heavens.

We are every day drawing closer and closer by regular siege. They certainly can't drive us for we are as strongly fortified as they and this is the way we approach. Our parallels are made right in their faces and they hardly ever kill any of our workmen. Our next parallel will be right upon them - and we have batteries of heavy guns so concealed that they do not know where they are. We have one battery of 5 100 pounders and one 200 pounder which will rake Yorktown completely with an enfilading fire and this they do not seem to be aware of as they have never directed a shot in that quarter. Then there is a fair chance for the Galena if she has any virtue in her.

I should dread to be a General ordered to hold Yorktown with troops at the time when our fire shall open.

As to what you wrote about your relations with Rowland I perceive that the trouble originated with your suspension. He became convinced that you deserved punishment at the hands of the Faculty and perhaps incontinuously [unconsciously] said as much. Now from what he said to me I know he felt deeply for you notwithstanding but owing to his strict conscientious scruples he could not take the grounds that the feelings of a brother naturally prompted him to take.

Perhaps he was entirely mistaken in his conclusions and I fear he took a mistaken course thinking it for your good to turn the cold shoulder a little as you have the impression that he did so. If he did be assured, Dellie, he thought it would be the best thing for you. Now all you need in order to put the right feelings between you is to remember that Rowland has your best good at heart and always has had, no matter what the outward appearance may have been. And further (and this is confidential) I will say that Mrs. Meryman & family always seemed to regard Rowland as inimical to them so that perhaps



unconsciously to yourself you may have received some erroneous impressions from them. Another's respecting of a brother's language will give it necessarily a very different tone from what it would have had received from his own lips.

I will close this by saying because Rowland has made some mistakes in his treatment of you should not cause any alienation between you. You might as well judge from certain indications that your own mother was not your friend. How quick both would rush to your aid if you should be sick or in want. Exercise a Christian spirit in it all. Confess to Rowland the truth - that you have been mistrusting that he does not love you with a brother's love & have thus wronged him. It may look humiliating - but the Christian ought to be humble and you will find Rowland will meet you in the same spirit for he has the kindest heart. Now take this my advice & you and we all will be much happier.

Don't have a desire to be a proud & selfish man but let all who come in contact with you be aware that you are at heart humble and self-condemning.

The chief characteristic of the Christian is the self-sacrificing spirit. It is what our Lord himself unceasingly exemplified. But humanity naturally is self-sufficient. We have got to battle against this latter. It is often & almost always too much for me. I find I must constantly look to Jesus for help and sometimes I fear I have none of His spirit so bound up am I in self.

Otis has just been reading your letter and says he is amused at some of it. He says Rowland is wrong - not that he does not love you or desire your best good but as I have intimated, he thinks Rowland has made a mistake in his treatment of you, thinking to do you good. Perhaps Otis will himself explain his own ideas about it in a letter to your sometime, but in the main I believe he will endorse what I have written.

I am sorry you meddled with those letters at all. That is a very delicate matter. If I live I will fulfill in person my promise to Nettie with regard to her letters. If I do not live to return I wish you to return to Nettie all that appear by the hand-writing to be from her. You may tell her this is my direction if she ever mentions the matter. I am very sorry if you have removed them or anything from my little box except the note which I wished mother to keep for me. Be sure & not tell any one that you are in possession of Nettie's letters or let anyone know it. Get them back into the little box the first opportunity, say, if you should go home in term-time. I still hope you have not touched those that were bound up there. If you have any of Nettie's letters I shall depend upon your honor of course not to read any of them or suffer any one to do so under any circumstances whatever.

I hope this does not sound too much like suspicion. I have the fullest confidence in you that you will carry out my wishes and I have only tried to make my desire plainly known to you so that there might be no mistake.

If Nettie asks where her letters are you may tell her if you please that you received a letter from me with regard to them - that they are to be kept safe - that no one is to read them - that you are to get all of them & deliver them to her in case I never return - that I desired to do so myself in case of a safe return from this war - that my desire also is that my own letters to her be given in exchange whenever the transfer shall take place.

I fear I have taken up too much space in this matter of my own of very little account to you. I got yours & Mother's joint letter & answered it. I was very glad to get the Catalogue away out here. I met Howard Randlett of my class a short time after I got it. He was sick like as I have been. I lent the Catalogue to him. He was greatly pleased to get it. He has been promoted to Hospital Steward in the 64th N.Y. tho' he came out a private in 5th N.H. Regt. I never thought that his lot (his alone of all my classmates) would be cast so near to mine. I have had a chance to help him a little which I have been very happy to do.

As I write I hear rapid firing in front of us which is the left of our line. It sounds like musketry which indicates a change in the aspect of things. I may be mistaken, it is so far off.

I wrote home that Dexter Howard had the Typhoid Fever. He is still quite sick. I saw him yesterday & gave him some oranges. He begged for lemons which I cannot get. Ruggles Keay is fast getting well. Henry Turner is well - was at work in the trenches. John Keene had just been paid off & looked happy as usual.

My respects to Profs. Whittlesey, Chamberlain & Smyth (Egbert C.) if they inquire.

This is a miserable place - this peninsula - low, wet - almost a continuous forest - level and unvaried. It is cold. We have cold north easters as you do in Maine. People are planting a little but much of the soil is not good. Otis has gone to muster the men of this Brigade in the Hospital. It is the sick & wounded that suffer, Dellie. How much they need our sympathy and prayers.

The boards under them grow doubly hard as the Fever increases. Dexter says he can't drink the miserable water they have up there & yet his mouth & throat are terribly parched. We scarcely ever drink any water - taking tea & coffee at our meals sufficient to quench thirst.

Write often. Your very affectionate brother.

C.H. Howard

P.S. We are 21 miles from Fortress Monroe, but there we have our letters directed.

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5/2/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-067

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott  
Yorktown, Va

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Head Quarters Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott [Near Yorktown, Virginia]  
May 2d, 1862

My dear Mother,

Here it is broad day light and we are still on our old ground though we breakfasted at 3 a.m. & were ordered to be ready to march at that hour. The order came about 11 o'clock and since that I assure you there has been very little sleeping. Aides had to go to the different Regiments, three of which were detached & at work at different places some two or 3 and some 7 & 8 miles distant - working roads, gabions for the forts, etc. I was not sent on any distant errand - only to the Regts here. I returned to bed & I think slept nearly half an hour.

I am happy to say that my health is quite good. I have recovered pretty nearly my usual strength and am in good spirits. I enclosed for you or father if he would like to take it in the same manner as he has the others \$375 with a package to Lizzie. Otis sent \$120. Lizzie will deliver it to you or father the first opportunity. If Father takes it he may give his note to me which you may keep for the present, unless you have some objection to this proceeding which you will mention to me in your next. I still have \$60 all of which I need to expend during the coming two months if I live.

We are in the good Lord's hands, dear Mother, and I was glad you could say as you did in yours & Dellie's joint letter (which was the last I got from you) that you was not in any great anxiety about us. I liked what you wrote for truly if this is the time when I am to be called hence - it is the best time and I trust all my friends will so see it & that they & I will rejoice in the will of the Lord. But we may all be spared to work much longer in the world. If so be that the Lord may give us grace to do well what we have to do. Sometimes I think it is much more fearful to live than to die. In fact this is the way the subject usually presents itself of late.

I have heard an occasional heavy gun since day light up on the right (near Yorktown) but it cannot be the battle has opened. We heard that it would begin tomorrow & the works are certainly near completion. Heretofore until 3 days ago I had not visited the works. Yesterday I rode sixteen ms in order to visit Big Bethel [Virginia] & the scene of poor Greble's death [Lieut. John T. Greble, commanding the artillery, was killed in the Battle of Big Bethel, VA., June 10, 1861]- I should like to write to Mrs. G & think I will. You know I saw her as I came thro' Phila.

I got Dellie's good letter written just before leaving home a day or two ago. Love to Father. Kind remembrance to the neighbors to Warren & Louisa. I often think about the latter. I see much sickness & suffering. There are many opportunities for our deepest sympathy & prayers where ever we go in this world.

Your loving Son  
C.H. Howard

P.S. I just stepped out of the tent & finding Otis talking on business with the <Commisary> , asked him if he had any word to send to "Mother." He says "Yes, give my love to her." C.H.H.

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5/15/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-068

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp Near  
Cumberland Va

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Hd Q'rs Howard's Brigade  
Camp near Cumberland (Va)  
May 15th, 1862

My dear Mother,

I am truly surprised at the actual comfort we enjoy tonight after ten miles march in the rain. We have come into camp in a woods just where we happened to be when the order reached us and about ½ mile from the landing on the Pamunkey called Cumberland. These are Gen. McClellan's Hd Qr's and there or I may say hereabouts is our entire army. Franklin, I hear, moved forward from here to or towards "the White House" which is situated where the Rail Road crosses this run. Gen. Keyes with his Corps is partly at & partly beyond New Kent Court House; but this is not more than 1 ½ mile from here. Going by New Kent we should come to Bottom Bridge. This is one way by which we might cross the Chickahominy swamp. Probably some feint will be made at that point, Bottom Ridge, which is naturally impregnable, and has been fortified with earth-works. But it seems that the main body of our forces will go round the swamp by the "White House."

But leaving strategy to take care of itself I will tell you about today's doings in the immediate circle of your sons. I hear a ground fire crackling outside & Otis is sustaining his part of the conversation. I heard him send for the Col. & all the Company commanders of the 64th N.Y. just now. I guess he is going to give them a lecture on allowing their men to get out of routes - "straggle" - divide and go round every mud puddle. They are the only Regt which does not come near what we expect in marching. When we first arrived here after assigning the troops their position, we cast about for a site for H'd Q'rs. We took a little wood road as then there appeared to be somewhat of a clearing & something like greenswards. We got half dozen men & some axes & soon had the bushes & trees cut away and as we had thought to put a "fly upon one of the shoe horses that was up & we soon had it spread.

Mr. Alvord whom I think I have mentioned to you as furnishing the army with Religious reading - was with us today & he has a covered carriage. We have sort of adopted him into our family - so we had his wagon for use of H'd Q'rs. He brought along a basket of provision with some of the "prepared coffee" (which is an inestimable luxury we have been using for several weeks) and as soon as our fly was pitched to keep off the rain we took out the seats from Mr. Alvord's wagon & refreshed ourselves with good bread & butter & meat. After that we almost all though not all at once fell asleep as we had Reveille at 2 a.m. this morning.

I had 3 Boston Journals arrive. I began to read but soon found that sleep was more desirable than reading. Otis I covered up before. In about one hour our teams came up being in the rear of the Division and since that till nearly supper time we have been pitching our tents - making our beds & attending to other comforts of camp.

For beds we drive down four crotch post about 2 feet high - put a round hard-wood stick cross-wise at the foot & head of the bed resting in the crotchets. We then procured round poles of the size of the wrist & smaller & about 6 feet long. Then we lay [them] lengthwise & close together. We then put little pine branches upon them and next a rubber blanket (they being wet). Then come our mattresses, then a woolen blanket. Then for me & Otis (who sleep upon one wide bed) a confiscated rebel blanket which is lined with cotton cloth. Last of all our robes.

It was quite wet in our tent & so Otis had some 6 inch sticks split & himself paved or cordorayed (This word has become very common with us - in repairing the roads so much). I was quite sleepy when I came into the office tent to write tonight. Perhaps you will observe the indication of it in my letter but I have written more than I anticipated. We hear this afternoon a rumor that our gunboats have succeeded in getting up the Chickahominy & cutting up some of the Rebel forces. Hope it will prove true. We hear that McDowell was here but think this is not the fact, though he might come round by transports from the

Rappahannock quite easily.

Many of our officers are sick with diarrhea. An excellent Captain died a day or two ago at Yorktown. He had not been thought dangerous. He was a College graduate & intended to be a Baptist preacher. We sent off our colored man to Ft. Monroe this morning by boat - sick with the same. We got another on our way here. I wrote to Rowland yesterday. You wrote me such a good long letter May 4th, it deserves two or three of mine in reply. One subject which attracts much of our attention of late & though we make it a matter of fun is partly serious is that of wood-ticks. They are a new species of natural history to me & they insist upon investigating me more than I do them. They are sufficiently harmless however. We hope to rest quietly tonight and be ready for duty when the order comes.

Love to Father. How comes on the farming? I shall soon be in the land of slumber - too sound for dreams. So I will bid my dear Mother good night.

Very affectionately, your son, Charles.

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5/23/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother (Rowland  
Howard)

CHH-069

Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp at Tyler's near  
Coal Harbor  
Hanover County Va

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He'd Q's Howard's Brigade  
Camp at Tyler's near Coal Harbor  
Hanover [New Kent was crossed out] County Va  
May 23d 1862.

My dear brother, [Rowland Bailey Howard]

It is about 8 o'clock in the evening - we have just got our tents fairly pitched and our pole bedsteads made for the night. We happen to be upon rather wet ground this time. Yesterday we had a furious shower with thunder, lightning and hail. Some dampness rises since the sun went down. We are on the Eastern edge of some large pine woods. A fire has just been kindled, which will help to dry up the ground and the surrounding vapors. We have been encamped for two days (since we moved from St. Peter's Church, which was a delightful place) upon the bank of the Richmond & York River Rail Road at Summit's Station 2 miles from the Chickahominy and the R.R. bridge across this stream is only 3/4 mile above Bottom's Bridge.

Perhaps you will see Mr. Alvord in Boston by whom I intend to send this letter and he will tell you that I visited said bridge in company with him. He will tell you what I have not mentioned in any of my letters, that I have been ailing again. This is the reason I have written very few letters for a week. I was taken with diarrhea about a week ago while at Cumberland. One day while at St. Peter's Church I got pretty nearly well, and then had a drawback. It was a touch of dysentery rather than diarrhea & I thought often of my Freshman sickness at Brunswick and your attentive and thought how differently I should fare out here should I have a similar regular siege of it. I am today partly strong and well again have been on the gain gradually for sometime. I only gave up my horse for an ambulance one day. That was mainly on account of its beginning to rain tho' really I suspect it was fortunate that this Providential excuse presented itself for I was too weak & sick to have held out on horseback much longer without detriment. Since we got upon this ground I have received a good letter from Dellie.

Today we have been marching upon the road to Richmond by way of the "New Bridge". The latter is about 7 ms [miles] distant from us and the same from Richmond. Our advance is <at> the bridge. Franklin's Corps - Porter's lies this side, I think at "Coal Harbor" (name of a Tavern Store). Then comes Sumner (both of whose Div's marched today, Sedgwick ahead) then Keyes at Bottom's Bridge and Heintzelman to support Sumner making two Corps down there. Thus we are stretched along the safe bank of the Chickahominy from New to Bottom's Bridge [letter folded and missing part of sentence] nothing to hinder our moving on immediately to try again whether the Rebels mean to make a stand this side of Richmond or to attempt the defense of their Capitol and this time the fact will be decided. Keyes has rebuilt Bottom's Bridge and had Pickets 3 m[ile]s across beyond. Our scouts & advance guard have I understand been across New Bridge but all these things I suppose you would gather from the papers and I better turn to the more private concerns of our military family and our Brigades.

Mr Alvord proposes to start at 3 o'clock tomorrow morning for the White House there to take the boat for Ft. Monroe & Baltimore, thence right on without a moment's delay to Boston. He intends to come back about a week from next Wednesday and I have got him to put down a few items for purchase for me as have also several of the staff. He leaves a good horse and 4 wheeled covered carriage with two seats for our use while he is gone. It will be very convenient as our wagons are necessitated to go in the rear of the Division and do not reach us till we have been in camp from 4 to 6 hours and sometimes longer. In this wagon we can carry a basket of provisions &c and have it along with the Brigade which is accompanied always by the ambulances.

The new order relative to whiskey, you may have known nothing about yet it is creating good deal of a stir in these parts. Otis has entered a protest against it. Mr. Alvord will tell you much about this. It came

from H'd Q's Army Potomac. I will mention it again - none issued here yet but it came up today with great tribulation to our Commissary Mr Billick.

I am too tired to write more except that I would enjoy much meeting you at this time in Boston and don't know but that I would try for a Leave were there not some prospect of an immediate action with the enemy and after it either a repulse or a triumphant entry into Richmond. In either of the cases last mentioned I would not want to be absent. Perhaps in some way I may see a clear path to leaving the Army as soon as we have reached Richmond. I did not intend first to stay but one year. Did not wish longer to be absent from the Seminary <study> yet I hardly think it will appear consistent and right for me to leave. I only wait. I do not have any desire to go contrary to the indications of Providence and shall be contented to stay and cheerfully do my duty if it is God's will. Fuller wrote me the other day that I might be librarian he thought without doubt if I was sure of coming back. At any rate I can have my old room if I return any time during the year as Perkins (of Lewiston) would be librarian if I was not and would be glad to have me share the room with him whenever I should come back. Wilson & <Martha> Darling are to be married. Mr. A. will mail this in Boston if he does not see you there soon after his arrival. Otis is very well in body as are we all. We are dry enough in our spiritual condition and yet the Lord is very gracious and does not forsake us altogether.

Hoping for more of your letters filled with the spirit of love and holiness soon and that the same spirit will comfort & maintain you in all your labors. I will close.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. I rather suspect this letter belonged to mother but as I had some expectation that you might be in Boston I put off the letter due to her & hope you will hand her this the first opportunity. CHH

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6/27/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-070

Auburn, Me

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Auburn (Me)  
June 27 1862

My dear Mother,

If I could have sent you word in season I think I would have gone up to Leeds with Rowland & Ellen today. They came here from Portland yesterday.

I consulted the Dr. today and have decided to attempt the journey to Leeds tomorrow if nothing in Providence prevents. John will accompany me. The Dr. feels somewhat fearful and all here urge me to remain another week; but I know your desire and the Dr. says there are not more than 2 chances in 5 of injuring my leg. He says also if it is not injured and everything goes on well I will be just as well off at Leeds as here. If anything unfavorable occurs I can send for Dr. Wiggin.

I shall wish to go very slowly in the wagon from the Depot home.

If I find in going over to Lewiston that my leg is going to be too badly hurt I shall not go but I do not expect such a contingency.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Otis did not get sick by going to Portland - even seems the better for it. C.H.H.



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8/26/1862      *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-071

Lewiston, Me

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Lewiston, Aug. 26/62  
7 a.m.

My dear Mother,

I arrived here safely 1/4 before 6 a.m. & my horse will soon be on the train. I remain in Lewiston & shall ride back to Greene with Warren who is coming down to bring Emma today for a visit. I will stay till night & perhaps till tomorrow with him & he will doubtless take me to Leeds.

I got up at 3 this morning, had a good breakfast as also did my horse & started soon after 4 o'clock. I am well & no more lame than when I left home.

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

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9/19/1862

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* [Rowland B Howard]

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CHH-289

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[undated fragment: "found between 12-16-62 & 'winter' '62".]  
[The first 4 pages are missing.]

[page] 5

in walking & I am sorry to say troubles me in riding – not that it grows any worse but I cannot cling to my saddle as I used to ride <hard> & thus when compelled to ride much & fast I become very lame & sore. I do not think riding hurts my leg particularly – tho' sometimes of course I hurt it a little as I would if it were well even. But I am not worth nearly so much as I used to be & this I feel to regret on Otis' account. Maj. Sedgwick was badly & I fear fatally wounded. He was the A. A. general so that all his duties devolve upon Capt. [Eliphalet] Whittlesey who is totally inexperienced tho' apt to learn. Capt. Howe (aid) went home with General Sedgwick to Conn. The remainder of the staff (Captains Bachelder & Smith (Qr Mr & Com.) with Lieuts. Whittier & Steele (aid & ordnance officer) are here.

Of course we have had hard duty & hard fare for the past week but the Lord is with us & gives us a good measure of health & keeps us from all harm. Others of our staff lost their horses but as I could not well walk & could not possibly run my horse in Providence was spared. Capt Whittlesey was cool & active in duty while exposed to the greatest possible dangers. Otis was all that you could ask. Of myself I fear I have already written with terms of higher commendation than was justified or than others would speak of me. I am unconscious, however, of having shrunk from any danger when duty called.

Good night - much love to all – I go to sleep in tent with Capt Whittlesey upon some straw on the ground. We have no cot bedstead – but shall sleep soundly. Otis sends love to you, to Ella & to Lizzie Patten.

Saturday, Sept. 20th '62.

In glancing over my letter I wish to correct some impressions which might be made (1st) I walk considerable & better than when you saw me using my saber for a cane. (2d) We had Porter's Corps & a Div. or more of raw troops entirely fresh and ready for battle, except that they had endured very severe marches – 20th Maine is in Butterfield's Brigade [See Note] Third Div. Porter's Corps. We have seen Col [Adelbert] Ames & [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain lately. Col. C. mentioned that they had nothing to eat. He will find that hard crackers is often our only diet. Yet I have never suffered from hunger. (3d) Our reason of our being outflanked was that Richardson did not move at the appointed time. French obliqued to the left on this acct. while Sedgwick whom Gen Sumner accompanied in person went straight forward in the place assigned. This left a little gap. Otis thinks that Gen. S had no business in going in with a single Div. but should have taken some prominent place from which he could have seen his entire command. Other criticisms are made upon Gen Sumner – but his bravery was distinguished. We are well this morning  
(see margin of 1st page)

[Notes:

On the second page (page 6) Charles has written the date Sept 20th '62. So this letter was probably started the day before, Sept 19th. The battle of Antietam occurred on Sept 17th, 1862. The letter was probably written to Rowland Bailey Howard, due to the reference to Rowland's wife Ella and her mother Lizzie Patten.

During the Battle of Antietam, the 20th Maine Regiment was commanded by Col Ames and included LCol Chamberlain. They were in the Third Brigade commanded by Col. Thomas B. W. Stockton (not Butterfield) in the First Division which was commanded by Maj. Gen. George W. Morrell. The First Division was in the Fifth Corps commanded by Maj. Gen. Fitz-John Porter.]

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9/21/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* brother (Rodelphus  
Gilmore)

CHH-072

H'd Qr's Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Near Sharpsburg, Md

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H'd Qrs Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Near Sharpsburg, Sept 21st '62 [The Battle of Antietam was Sept 17, 1862]

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

We were very happy to receive your letter yesterday dated Sept. 14th. I had not received a single letter until yesterday when one came from Rowland also. You probably are aware that Otis & I have been in another battle, the severest & grandest of the war [Antietam]. We came out untouched by bullet or shell altho' constantly exposed & thousands fell about us. The loss in our Brigade was greater than at Fair Oaks & in the Division, which fell to Otis after Gen. Sedgwick left the field, the loss is fearful.

Gen. S. remained after being wounded in the neck & in the arm until he became so weak from loss of blood that he could stay no longer. Capt Whittlesey & I were near the General all the time except when sent away on duty & we were all under fire for about two hours, the hottest kind of musketry & at the same time a fury of shot & shell. At Fair Oaks we did not have the artillery firing as here.

The field was extended over 3 or 4 miles & attacks were made simultaneously in their distinct places so that you can see the ground covered with dead for half a mile in every direction in these three quarters. My horse even was kindly spared in Providence for I cannot yet walk with ease & could not possibly run.

Altho' I had had considerable experience in war I had never before seen such terrible sights - the heaps & rows of dead! You can discern where the Rebel lines were by the line of dead lying side by side. And many of the wounded up to last night had not yet had surgical attendance for the reason that there were so many that with all of the hundreds of extra surgeons who came from Washington there has not been time to get round to see all the poor suffering fellows yet. We are encamped upon the battlefield. Bank's old Corps commanded by Gen. Mansfield (an old Army officer) fought on this spot & Gen. M. was killed right in front of where I am writing. We advanced farther with our Div. across an opening just beyond the skirting of woods in which our men are bivouacked then into & to the farthest edge of another strip of woods. We went up in 3 lines of battle, our Brigade was the 3d & altho' we were exposed all the time to the enemy's bullets owing to being near, yet did not fire much before our left was turned & we retired to another position by order of Gen. Sumner.

It is a pleasant Sabbath morning and were it not for the terrible stench which comes from the battle field I would much prefer to remain quiet today - but I fear our men may all be made sick. My own health is mostly good tho' my leg has not improved so rapidly as I had hoped it would. Capt Whittlesey was cool & brave under fire & active in duty.

We were very glad to hear that Young was liked. If you treat him with respect I think you will find him a good friend. I speak in this way because I know his character & that like most mortals he has a good deal of vanity and needs to have it humored a little. He was always an intimate friend of mine. Please give him my love & tell him that the Rebels failed to harm me this time - that I am gratified to hear of his success at Bowdoin.

I wouldn't have you do a wrong to any one for the world, Dellie, but I trust you will take as cool & distant a view of the engagement affair as possible - that you may never have occasion to regret any step.

Came from Newport News. The other Generals I mentioned have Corps - that is two Divisions each. Gen Sumner has 3 Divisions. French was not hurt. Hancock takes Richardson's who is not expected to live & Otis has Sedgwick's.

Were it not for the stench from the battle-field this would be a pleasant place & if we are permitted to lie quietly here this Sabbath day we shall enjoy the rest. We have not moved more than 1/4 mile from the

spot where I wrote you the note in pencil. We sent it by a citizen to Hagerstown & also got him to telegraph. Did you receive the letter & the dispatch? The letter from Otis to Lizzie. Did you get my letter directed to Farmington while you were there? We got a letter from Rowland to me last night dated so late on the 16th & saying you were with him. This was a great treat. It was the 1st letter I had got since leaving home! One came from Dellie also in the evening. Our tents came up yesterday. The 1st time we have seen them for a week. Week ago today we left Frederick in the morning & just at dark came upon the battlefield in the mountains - not in time to suffer any loss. That morning I believe I mailed my letter for you in Rowland's case.

There are many graves of the 10th Maine just before my eyes about 5 yds off. Capt Nehemiah Furbish was killed on Wed but I do not know when he was buried. He was a young man of a good deal of character & promise & he nobly sacrificed his life for his country.

Otis & I have been very busy in making out the report of the battle last evening & this morning. Otis is still occupied with it.

I hope you are enjoying the quiet worship of God in His sanctuary today - and that you will make up in devotion for our necessary neglect of His ordinances. Being now in reserve it is not likely that we will be in action again for some time at least. Love to all. Otis sends much love to Mother & all.

Yr. affectionate son [sic]  
C.H. Howard

P.S. The 20th Me is with Porter who is in pursuit of the Rebels.  
Direct [letters to] Sedgwick's Division, Sumner's Corps, Washington, D.C.

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9/22/1862      *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Roland H  
Gilmore]

CHH-294

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[Undated Fragment: Found between 2/16/62 and 2/22/62]

[Probably written about Sept 21, 1862 (see notes at the end of the letter). Also, it must have been written to Dellie, since Rowland & Lizzie are referred to in the 3rd person, and he was also friendly with Nettie.]

[page] 5

Give my love to Mrs. Frost & family. What do the <> think of the Rebellion or don't they speculate upon such worldly matters?

I was pleased at what you wrote from Nettie. I very much desire that she shall be a true woman – one of piety, I mean, forgiving above all narrow views & little jealousies. There is no one out of my immediate family of whose welfare & prosperity & happiness I would more gladly hear than hers.

Packard was not very well & has gone to N.Y. to his brother to remain until he gets entirely well.

Rowland & Lizzie's letter told of the death of Sarah's baby & Josie Keene and mentioned that both Oscar & Wm G. Turner had gone to the war for 9 months.

Ask all the questions that come to mind about the battle & I will try & answer in my next. I am writing upon a Portfolio which John picked up upon the battlefield. We had 3 of Gen. <Burns'> aides with us but no one was hurt tho' two had their horses shot.

Gen. Sumner was in the thickest of the fight but safe. Hancock now has Richardson's Division and Gen. R. wounded by a grape shot probably will not live. Miles & Scott are safe. The former now Lt. Col. 61st N.Y. took 300 rebel prisoners in the battle. Two Rebel Generals were killed & one at South Mountain Sunday evening week ago. We did not quite get into that battle.

We cannot repair the loss of Gen Hooker who commanded McDowall's Corps – two Divisions. Sedgwick has been appointed to a Corps so will never return to this Div. He is a noble man.

You have the privilege of peaceful worship today. I hope you appreciate the favor & will improve it to your own & other's profit, & will remember your brothers who are deprived of such blessings.

Your affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard

[Notes:

The date of this letter is derived from the following information. Both Oscar and William Turner enlisted on 29 Sept 1862. This was an official date of enlistment and they may have left earlier. Miles was promoted to Lt Col on 29 May 1862. Finally, the Battle of South Mountain, Md occurred on Sept 14, 1862 (a Sunday), which was one week ago.

The reference to Gen Hooker's loss must be referring to the Battle of Antietam, Sept 17, 1862.

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10/4/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-074

Head Quarters 2d  
Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va

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Hd. Qrs 2d Div. Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va.  
Oct. 4th 1862

My dear Mother,

I have written to Rowland and to Dellie since writing to you. I generally give you each a turn.

Genl. Sewall with his Regt. reported this morning at Sunrise. They came in the cars last evening - came across the river & got bivouacked at about 2 a.m. just this side of Harpers Ferry. We did not know they were so near tho' we knew they had been ordered here. Otis invited Genl. S. & his Field Officers to Breakfast with us which they were glad enough to do.

Thomas came up with the rest fresh hearty & healthy - not in the ranks as he is detailed for duty with the Col. He does his cooking now! Thomas looks very happy & is glad to get so near us. Says he likes Col. Sewall very much. He showed me a good picture of Abbie & the babe which he had lately received.

Col. Sewall was first ordered to Gen. Berry's Brigade but he protested so hard that they let him off & finally [sent] him to Sumner's Corps & Otis has assisted the Regt to Gen. Gorman's Brigade which was the smallest in our Division. The 15th Mass is in that Brigade also 1st Minnesota, 34th & 82d N.Y. seven in all. Dana's Brigade also has 5, Brem's is quite full for old Regts altho it has but 4. The last was Col. Baker's Brigade, who was killed at Ball's Bluff [Battle of Ball's Bluff, Oct 21, 1861]. He raised it by special authority of the War Department. He had 15 companies in two of his Regts whereas other Regts you know have but 10.

Col. Sewall is posted up upon the summit of Bolivar Heights to our front & right from which point with his glass he can see the Rebel pickets & with the naked eye see where some Rebel horsemen took some of our men prisoners yesterday who were foolish enough to stray beyond our picket line.

You will probably have seen accts of the visit of President Lincoln to this place. Otis rode by his side all the time he was passing our Div. also visited Loudon & Md. Heights in his company the next morning. Told a good many funny anecdotes suggested by what he saw or heard remarked.

I have taken a horse back ride this morning - the first since 2 days after the battle. The Boil is entirely well & my health otherwise, which has been a little impaired from want of exercise, fast improving now that I can ride again my digestion will become good.

It is very pleasant weather - only too hot for comfort in the sun in the middle of the day.

We have no intimations of a movement at present. McClellan was only put in charge of the defenses of Washington - under that order he drove the Rebels out of Md, but was not allowed to go farther.

I wish you mother to go to my Portfolio which is I think in my trunk & in one of the folds in a large sized envelope are my discharge papers from the 3d Maine Regt. (3 (three) in number) which I wish you to take & send to me in a similar envelope of which father has a supply I believe. The Discharge has mistakes in it which I wish to have corrected.

Did Father send word or money to Mr. Longley for the saddle \$5.50 was due him.

We pay very high for all provisions here & can scarcely get an apple at any rate. Wish we had some of yours either dried or in any other form.

We will D.V. have Religious Services in front of these H'd Q'rs tomorrow as our last Sabbath.

Dellie will have opportunity probably to send me any little package he may choose by Rev. Mr. Palmer of Brunswick who is coming out as Chaplain for Col. Sewall.

How is father this Fall? Love to him & all not excepting yourself who have the greatest portion.

From your affectionate son.  
C.H. Howard

10/12/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother (Rodelphus  
Gilmore)

CHH-075

Head Quarters 2d  
Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va

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H'd Qr's 2d Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va  
Oct. 12, 1862

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

Your letter of the 6th reached me day before yesterday the 10th with one from Rowland written a day or two before one from Mother next day written a week ago today & mentioning Deacon Turner's death [Deacon George Turner, d. 1 Oct 1862].

Mr Palmer arrived here last Thurs afternoon & saw Rowland in Brunswick the day he left. He preached at our H'd Qrs today. It was his first appearance before the 19th and he also had delegations from nearly all the Regts. in the Div. of which there are 14. There are but one or two chaplains besides him in this Divn. He had prepared his discourse particularly for the new Regt. but then that made little difference tho' I think had he known he was to conduct the services for the entire Divn. he would have had less to say about his own peculiar relations to the Regt. which he seemed to address during most of his sermon. He will "limber up" & become more direct & plain spoken as he practices preaching to the soldiers standing as they do in the open air.

It has been cold & quite rainy today. Otis is not very well and I have been troubled with Diarrhea for a day or two & have been quite uncomfortable from it today. The service today was all embraced in an hour's time & nothing Mr. Palmer said was in bad taste - much of it was good for us all. His prayer was what we needed and Mr. Harris of the 106th P.V. closed with a warm & hearty <[torn page]>. Our singing led by Capt Whittlesey was good. Then <[torn page]> were half a dozen ladies sitting in and in front of the General's tent. Gen. Burns was there who has just returned to his Brigade. He is not well from an affliction of the spine. Is a good looking man with black whiskers which nearly conceal the large scar upon his cheek caused by a wound received upon the Peninsula.

The General rec'd a letter from Packard written at Biddeford saying he was well again, but had relinquished all ideas of rejoining the Army. Since that Capt Whittlesey got a letter from his wife saying Packard was sick & with Fever. Do you know anything about it?

John has just come up from a visit to the 19th Maine which is attached to Gorman's Brigade. John says he saw Thomas Rubin and that he is well. He is Col. Sewell's cook. Col. S. is rather discontented and says he much prefers staff duties.

I suppose he remembers other days besides he occasionally gets a glimpse of the comforts & service delights about their Head Quarters. The day he came we had him, his Lt. Col. & Maj & Surgeon to dine with us. Tonight Col S. called up before Supper was over & knowing his fondness for doughnuts we sent him some with cheese. These are great luxuries in these parts I assure you.

I have been reading Baxter's Saints Rest [Richard Baxter, "The Saints Everlasting Rest"] somewhat today tho my stomach &c has made me too uncomfortable to enjoy any reading much of the time. It is growing so inclement & Otis not being very well we have about concluded to take a house for H'd Qrs partially at least. Probably having the tents hitched near for day use & when the weather is fair.

I am in the house now & writing at the table with a N.Y. Tribune reporter. If you see the Daily Tribune you will often notice communications from Bolivar Heights, some of which mention Gen. Howard. Richardson who is now here signs A.D.R. Newcomb who is also here signs N. From what Rowland wrote I judge my letter was published in the L. F. Journal and I have recently sent another to the same also signed <N>. I tell you that you may get sight of them if possible believing that you & my own family will take more



pleasure in their perusal, than any one else.

I am sorry you have not got a school. Find one if possible. Don't think too much about the young lady. Rather read Shakespeare to satiate all the romantic tastes & turns of your mind & heart. I have a copy taken from the Rebels at Wmsburg Va which I occasionally devour when I cannot  
Head Quarters  
Howard's Brigade  
Camp Winfield Scott [Near Yorktown, Virginia]  
May 2d, 1862

My dear Mother,

Here it is broad day light and we are still on our old ground though we breakfasted at 3 a.m. & were ordered to be ready to march at that hour. The order came about 11 o'clock and since that I assure you there has been very little sleeping. Aides had to go to the different Regiments, three of which were detached & at work at different places some two or 3 and some 7 & 8 miles distant - working roads, gabions for the forts, etc. I was not sent on any distant errand - only to the Regts here. I returned to bed & I think slept nearly half an hour.

I am happy to say that my health is quite good. I have recovered pretty nearly my usual strength and am in good spirits. I enclosed for you or father if he would like to take it in the same manner as he has the others \$375 with a package to Lizzie. Otis sent \$120. Lizzie will deliver it to you or father the first opportunity. If Father takes it he may give his note to me which you may keep for the present, unless you have some objection to this proceeding which you will mention to me in your next. I still have \$60 all of

10/13/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Lizzie (Elizabeth Waite Howard)

CHH-076

Head Quarters 2d  
Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va

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H'd Q'rs 2d Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Bolivar Heights Va.  
Oct 13th 1862

My dear Lizzie, [Elizabeth Waite Howard]

We were happy to get your letter "for Charles". Otis first took it but he usually has me open the envelope with my pen knife and of course I discovered the extra super scription. However I read the letter aloud instead of Otis reading aloud to me as he frequently does on the receipt of your letters. Otis & I just returned from Gen. Couch's H'd Q'rs - who now commands this Corps. We walked down & back finding it a little muddy in crossing streets, owing to last night & yesterday's rain.

When we got back Otis said I meant to have written a letter this morning. Has the mail gone? When told it had not he thought he would write in the 1/4 hour remaining before 12 hr when the mail leaves. But Capt. Whitlesey had some papers for his consideration & I remembering your kind letter to me & perceiving that Otis would not get time to write just slipped into the office - called for paper & am thus far in a letter to you. A letter from Mother same date as yours told how much she enjoyed having Jamie [Otis and Lizzie's son, James Waite Howard] remain with her & said she would be lonely without him.

Yesterday Rev. Mr. Palmer chaplain 19th Me. & from Brunswick Me. only last week preached at these H'd Q'rs to such of the Divn. as chose to assemble. Several ladies, wives of officers, came & sat in and about the General's tent. Capt W. leads the singing very well. If you see the N.Y Tribune you will find pieces every day from this place. The correspondents of that paper are fine gentlemen & quite agreeable company. One letter in the Tribune of the 8th inst. (I believe) speaks particularly of Gen. Howard & his efforts to raise the standard of morals in his command.

We are going into a good nice brick house this afternoon & the cold & damp weather of a few days past makes us ready to appreciate the luxury.

Our dinner is ready earlier today that we may have more time to move & set up house keeping before night.

Gen. Couch is very pleasant & his Adjutant General is an "own cousin" of Rev. Mr. Walker of State St. Church Portland also a classmate & especial friend of Douglass a friend & classmate of mine at Bangor.

I must hasten to close for dinner calls must be heeded by all - great & small - Love to darling Guy & Grace & not a little to my Sister Lizzie.

From your Affectionate br.  
Charles

P.S. Enclosed please find a \$100 Treasury note from O.O. Howard, B.G.

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12/1/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother (Rodelphus  
Gilmore)

CHH-077

Leeds, Me

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Leeds Dec 1st '62

Dear Brother, [Rodelphus

When father returned to the Corner after carrying you over he found that Huldah had just expired. [John Gilmore's daughter Huldah Gilmore Lothrop, d. 1 Dec 1862]

The funeral will be on Wednesday next at 10 o'clock. I write that you may get the word in season so as to dismiss your school Tuesday night till Thursday. I regret that I must go away but I cannot well defer my departure. Roland [Gilmore, Huldah's brother] has gone down to Warren's [Warren L. Lothrop, a cousin of Huldah's husband, George Lothrop].

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Father seems rather sober. Let us pray that this Providence may be profitably received by him, by Roland & by other relatives who are thinking too little of the unseen realities.

And you, Dellie, must be careful lest your heart grows cold & your efforts for Christ dwindle away to almost nothing. How sad you would feel some future day if you should be compelled to think your influence did not tend to bring father to give his heart to Christ.

Good Bye - C.H.H.

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12/6/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-078

Washington, D.C.

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Washington Dec 6th, '62

Dear Mother,

I arrived here early yesterday morning and spent the day in prosecuting business as vigorously & perseveringly as I was capable of doing. I cleared up the difficulty about myself and the "mustering in" after going back & forth between the departments several times - talking almost incessantly - discussing some - quarreling a little - being somewhat fancy at times and occasionally adroit - having records searched and furnishing data & evidence therefrom - making use of the never failing lever of favoritism - in case I happened to be acquainted with a high official the way to whose presence was blockaded by a dozen or more applicants for a hearing.

I have only hinted at the processes and my proceedings. I was determined if possible to finish up that business so as to join the army today. But when I had settled the difficulty referred to - to the entire satisfaction of everybody - there arose another one I was compelled to write to Otis and <wait for> an answer in the city. He had failed to certify in any of the score of papers we have furnished that he did not receive pay in lieu of forage for the horses <received> after they were dead & before their places were supplied by others.

I found a letter here waiting me from Otis in which he tells me to stay till I finish this business or I would have gone down river today at any rate. Besides there was no money at the Pay Department yesterday & I cannot pay for my horse till I get my two months pay. I shall try again when I get through with my letter.

This morning I have purchased a horse - rather an ordinary one perhaps. I selected him from several thousand but none of them appears to be remarkably promising. Shall pay from 115 to 125 dollars probably.

I am writing in Navy Department by kindness of Mr. Farwell - was on my way back from the corral & thought I would write and rest after walking for an hour or two. Otis & Capt W. were well. Mrs. Farwell is not well. I board with them corner of K & 12th Strts. They have a club there now - all from Maine or Mass. & they were kind enough take me in. Mrs. Chase of Bath - the house keeper giving up her bed for me.

I had a pleasant evening at Mr. Merrick's (the father) met the Goodwins there & all the Merrick family - two or three unmarried daughters. I left my belt in Philad but expect to get it by express today. It snowed here yesterday after beginning with rain but as the ground is not frozen - it only produces mud. It was reported yesterday that Burnside had crossed the river below Fredericksburg but nothing of it in the papers. I am well - made up my sleep last night. Slept scarcely any in the cars Thurs. night.

Love to Father & Dellie. Affectionately,  
C.H. Howard

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12/8/1862      *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-079

Washington, D.C.

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Washington Dec. 8 '62

My dear Mother,

In my letter to Dellie you will see how I spent yesterday morning. In the evening I heard Dr. Gurley preach upon 6th verse 14th Chap of Rev. a Missionary Sermon, at the close of which a collection was taken. Mrs. Chase (the house keeper at the Maine Club where I board) and Mrs. Kimball wife of one of the boarders who was a classmate of Rowland's in College and his room-mate the first term of his Freshman year (Mr. Kimball is a clerk in the 2d Auditor's office). Mrs K. was the daughter of Mr Ferris - book seller at Augusta Me. - these ladies accompanied me to church. Dr. G. a Presbyterian is rather "heavy" in his manner as well as his style of writing. But he seemed to wake up more than his wont while urging the Claims of the great cause of Missions. This is the President's Church but he seldom attends and never in the evening I believe. I saw Gen. Casey at Church but did not speak with him.

We got home before 9 o'clock and I went up into Mr. Kimball's room where I spent the remainder of the time very pleasantly - talking over College reminiscences somewhat and touching upon many <other> subjects. He & his wife have just been reading "Les Miserables" and this furnished a topic for considerable comment. They like the work much.

Mrs. Farnwell is not well. Has been unwell for 2 or 3 weeks and yesterday she was hardly so well as when I arrived and was troubled with tooth-ache in addition. Her little girl is well but neither of them come down stairs to their meals. Mr. F. carries up their food. Mr. & Mrs. Kimball have a little boy about 2 years old.

This morning is "clear, cold, crisp & healthy" using Rev. Mr. Stockton's words which he applied to yesterday. I have been to the express offices to inquire for my belt which I left in Philada. but neither that nor Capt. Whittlesey's saddle which was to come from Philada. has arrived yet. I also went to the Pay Department but got same answer as last week "No money". I made out my accounts & waited half an hour in vain & then came over her to Mr. Farwell's office in the Navy Department where I am writing. Mr. Longley is here. I don't know whether it is Josiah or the one who lives in Greene. I think the former. He introduced himself to me & told me he had often seen me & knew my father. I find it was William.

If you wish to send any package or box to us or if any one in Maine wishes to send to their friends, let them direct care Maine State Agency, Washington D.C. and they will be more likely to get it. The Agency are constantly sending things to the Army. Sam Tenney son of Judge T. is in the employ of the Agency.

I am going soon to try the Pay Department again and if I do not get my dues today I think I shall leave my accounts with Mr. Farwell who kindly offers to advance me the money whereby I can pay for my horse and so take it from the Department as soon as there is any in the Treasury. I shall arrange to have \$25 sent to Father by which you can take up the note which I gave him when I came away.

We hear this morning that Banks has landed upon the South side of the James River. If true you will have got the news by Telegraph before you read this.

Mr. Longley talks of going up to see the 23d Me. which, I hear, is still in Md. about 14 miles above Georgetown. So they are not to accompany Banks. If Mr. L. goes I will send a letter to Oscar.

I wrote to Clark Curtis on Saturday to ascertain whether he was still at Alex. thinking I might possibly call to see him before I joined the Army. I have not yet heard from him in reply. Perhaps he has gone home.

Hope you enjoyed a good Sabbath yesterday & that I shall get some account of it soon by letter. Are you alone? Has Betsey gone?

Your Affectionate Son.  
C.H. Howard

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12/10/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-080

H'd Qr's 2d Divn.  
Wednesday Camp at  
Falmouth

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H'd Q'rs 2d Divn.  
Wednesday Dec 10 1862  
Camp at Falmouth

My dear Mother

Just as dark tonight I arrived at this place. Found Otis at Supper. No, he came out to meet me and then we went to the supper table & there I greeted the rest of the staff (Captains Whittlesey & Smith, <Lienty>, Stinson & Atwood) who welcomed me cordially. Capt Batchelder was luckily at the depot & got me a horse to ride up. I did not take the one from Washington but meeting Col Barker bought a better one (had to pay \$15) of him <> injured, which I knew, which was down here with Gen. Caldwell.

I relished the supper of Indian cakes, I assure you as I had not eaten a morsel since 7 o'clock this morning when I left W. Had good butter & some preserves for sauce. The first thing Otis said was that he had just written Lizzie that he hoped I would not arrive till tomorrow night as he expected a battle tomorrow & he would gladly have me escape it. But you see Providence has ordered otherwise. All for the best I doubt not. And I feel no regret that I came today. On the other hand I am confident I should have felt dissatisfied if I had not come to share the dangers & hardships incident to a battle, with my comrades & brother. I am very well - never felt better. Had I rec'd Otis' letter I should not have come down today for he says he wrote for me to attend to some errands and to stay till I got pay for the horses. But the letter will be opened by Hages & the business properly attended to. Mr Farwell would not allow me to pay anything at their Club so I have not been on expense. Last night I slept with Sam Tenney & got up at 5 this morning. The steamboat was a poor one - crowded & destitute of seats. We reached Aquia area about 1 P.M. I sat waiting upon the platform car till two P.M. & then rode <?thing> on a barrel by the side of Gen. Doubleday <&> others to a point two miles from here.

I took tea last evening with Mrs. Sampson at Mr. Hall's who was formerly from Maine (Vassalboro). Mrs. S. had been at Alexa. yesterday & seen Clark Custis who she said is looking well but is considerably lame & will get his discharge within a fortnight. I did not get an opportunity to visit him but got a letter in answer to a few lines I wrote him.

The whole army is here and probably there will be a terrific encounter tomorrow as it is now understood we are all to cross right in the face of the enemy here at Fredericksburg [Virginia]. They found out or surmised that Burnside was going to <attempt to> flank them by going down <[torn page]> and moved considerable of their force down there, so the plan is changing. Burnside is determined to out-general them if possible and we know not finally what the plan will be yet. Otis has now gone to Gen Sumner's H'd Q'rs. Went away at 7 P.M. after having a talk with me about home, my journey, affairs here, &c. He will bring back the final word. The Lord will guide us and you will know by Telegraph before this reaches you the result of the attack and probably its bearing upon the condition or fate (using a word that I do not like) of your sons.

Fate is the dealing of God with us and with this sense & this only it is a good word enough. Often would we feel were we in the hands of a less beneficent & merciful Being! But as God in His infinite goodness he revealed his character to us and also taught <us> that all the affairs of this world are moulded by His will. And more than this that all things work together for the good of those that love Him. How safe and peaceful & even happy we may be even amid the perils & tumult of war - yes, and amid afflictions when those we love are taken from us.

Otis looks fleshy & hearty & says he is very well - seems cheerful. We have stoves - one in the center of our Sibley tent. I found a bed ready for me just vacated by a Tribune Reporter. I had bought a nice hair mattress, \$3.50. Sam Tenney gave me a pillow, which I took as a gift & a luxury not necessary but acceptable. Capt. W & I share a negro boy named <“?n”>. I tent with the Aids <[torn page]> Otis. Otis (it is <[torn page]>) was appointed Maj. Genl. with 14 others but then suspended with these until a certain law should be changed and which limited the number of Maj Gens.

Much love to Dellie, to father, to Rowland, to Roland A & family, Louisa & remember me kindly to the neighbors. And may the Lord bless you with the presence of the Holy Spirit to comfort, cheer & strengthen you in every duty. This is the prayer of your loving son.

C.H. Howard

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12/13/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-081

H'd Qr's 2d Division  
Fredericksburg Va

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H'd Q's 2d Division  
Fredericksburg Va  
Dec. 13th 1862

My dear Mother,

We have been in another battle today - exposed during most of the forenoon and this afternoon. Our Divn. under fire & in action till after dark tonight. The Lord has shielded us again - Otis & me & all the staff. It seemed a miracle that Otis was not hit at all nor his horse.

I was hit by a piece of shell in the calf of the leg. It tore off a portion of my rubber boot, ditto my pants, drawers, & skin but did not make a deep wound. It bruised the flesh a little but the only inconvenience is a little soreness. We are in a house with two ladies tonight who have stayed here during all the cannonading. Their roof & upper rooms have been perforated by cannon balls.

Mrs. Fitzgerald is the lady & she said to me she wished me to write my mother that I had protected a defenseless old woman seventy years old. She is violently "secesh" & talks it all out. She is of course grateful for protection. Says there will never be a union again. She and Capt. W are discussing. I of course am very tired. It is after 9 P.M.

Our success in front of our Corps is small. We hold the ground we took, but were not able to take the Rebel breast-works upon the heights. The destruction of life has been fearful in the extreme and more upon our side than that of the enemy. Gen Caldwell, Col Gross, Col Miles & Gen'l McKim - all the commanders of our old Brigade - have been wounded. Gen Sully of our Div was slightly wounded. Otis has come back & we have had prayers - the ladies kneeling with us. We feel thankful that the Lord has saved us.

May He relieve you from anxiety the prayer of yr affectionate Son.  
C.H. Howard

6 ½ A.M. Dec 14 Sabbath

Our troops i.e. Divn. were relieved and are in town. Otis is gone to see Gen. Sully

Morning Dec. 14.

All well. Good sleep. Burnside attacks again at 10 a.m. Love to all. C.H.H.



12/14/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Dellie [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-082

Head Quarters 2d  
Division  
Fredericksburg Va

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Head Quarters 2d Division  
Fredericksburg Va  
Dec. 14, 1862

Dear brother Dellie

As you see my letters to mother and as I have little time to write except when too tired, I have not written you since my arrival with the army. I will not repeat what I have written home.

It is Sabbath Evening and, thank God, we have seen no fighting today. There has been picket firing frequently and when I wrote mother last evening we were anticipating the renewal of the contest today. We were ordered to support Wilcox today at 10 A.M. and I carried the order to each of our Brigade Commanders to move to the left till in position to support as above. They were there before 10 A.M. But as we waited, reconnoitering in front, visiting generals and otherwise as usual passing the time, no orders came to move, neither did Gen. W. advance. In fact the Corps Generals, did not come back from over the river where they were holding Counsel at Gen. Burnside's H'd Q's till this afternoon.

So we came to this house which stands next to the one where we slept last night and which we selected this morning for H'd Q's should we remain in the city another night. It is the Parsonage of a Methodist Church. The carpets are down and furniture all here. I am writing in a blank book which has been partly filled with records of the Quarterly Conference. You ought to see the fine libraries that have been exposed to destruction & theft in this city. I wish our Government would confiscate these books and sell them at auction. I would replenish the libraries of my brothers if not my own and save the books from destruction.

It is so much of a task to give a full account of a great battle such as we fought yesterday, that I shrink from the undertaking. I wrote a letter to the Press about the first day & a note to Mr. Gilman telling to pass it to your credit if he saw fit to publish. I sent directly to him because it is worth so much more to be new. I sent him another letter today tho' not giving any details of yesterday. So I think I will write another if I am spared to do so. This evening - this moment we are sending out 5 Rgts to relieve Syke's pickets - two of his brigades which took our place during last night.

It seems probable that we will stay here and that the main attack will be made somewhere else. Siegel & Slocum who had a Corps at Harpers Ferry are ready and have not crossed the river - some of Hooker at least - the 3d Corp & I think another Div. were not engaged or under fire at all. These fresh troops will probably be sent to the attack upon the right flank and we will not have to fight unless the enemy press upon us. This is only surmise & possibly we may attack simultaneously here in front. If we do, the order will be as named for today. Our loss yesterday was 12 or 13 hundred. Hancock & French lost more than we making the loss of the Corps nearly equal to what it was at Antietam. It was a mighty struggle. The enemy were strongly entrenched. They poured a murderous fire from rifle pits upon our lines as they attempted to charge upon them. Col. Miles with our magnificent 61st N.Y. (to which I belong) & the 64th which also was with us at Fair Oaks came near reaching the crest of the hill where were the Breast-works & batteries. But Miles was wounded in the neck, not dangerously. He was here today & took dinner. Says he has received from Gov. of N.Y. that I have been promoted to 1st Lieut & commission on its way. Otis got a letter from Dr. Sherman from Washington saying that Sen. Wilson said Otis was one of those marked by the President for appointment as Maj. Gen. I suppose there is not doubt that he is appointed and the announcement will be made as soon as Congress passes a law increasing the limits of the no. of Maj. Gen.

Just left my letter to go with Otis to Gen. Couch's in hopes to get news. Got nothing except a hint that Siegel would move down to our left instead of right as I wrote above, and that we might move to form a junction with him. We found all in bed at Gen. C's. We are feeling the reaction of yesterday's strain of nerve, muscle & mind & think we will soon be "abed". The aids, Atwood & Stinson have gone to oversee

the location of the pickets. Last night they were out till 2 A.M. My leg is only a little sore but they favor me on account of it. Is near my yesterday's wound.

You may if you please forward a letter upon facts communicated here, only do it very carefully and add from other letters. I doubt if you can extract any sentences. But it might be well to communicate that Gen. Howard's Division was hotly engaged the afternoon & evening of Saturday and two brigades held their own after their ammunition was expended; that Gen. H's & his brother's horses were wounded and the horse of the latter twice & that others of his staff had their horses struck. That Lt. Howard A.D.C. was slightly wounded in the other leg, yet entirely recovered. Perhaps you won't care to mention all this & the fact of my promotion to 1st Lt. & that it is understood in the Army that Gen. H. is to be Maj. Gen. Do as you like. A shell burst in Gen. Couch's quarters today, in a room in which one of his aids was asleep. It passed straight through the brick wall & then exploded. I need hardly add the Lt. awoke about as suddenly as ever man did and for some time could scarcely comprehend the status therein. When he was fairly himself again he was gratified to find that he was neither killed nor hurt.

With love to all & request for your most fervent prayers. I will close. We have just <had> prayers & Otis is asleep by this time. Capt. W. is making his bed on the floor. I read part of Acts 10th tonight & offered the prayer. Not one letter from you yet.

Affectionately  
C.H. Howard

Love to father & mother. Did father get the \$30 I sent from Washington? Good Night. C.H.H

Monday Morning 8 ½ A.M. No orders yet. Doubt if our Div. is engaged today. C.H.H.

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12/16/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-083

Howard's Division  
Near Falmouth Va

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Howard's Division  
Near Falmouth Va  
Dec. 16th 1862

[No salutation and no closing, This may have been intended for publication in a newspaper]

A few ticks of the telegraph have already announced the oppressive fact that the attack upon the Rebel breast-works beyond Fredericksburg was an utter failure and that that city was evacuated by our troops under cover of last night. A few bold and skillful strokes of the pen in the hand of genius produces a sketch which, in light and shade, in its lines of beauty, in accuracy and completeness, is nature herself and highly gratifying to him who has an eye for the beautiful with mind and heart to appreciate skill in its delineation. When I think of the need we of this army have of sympathy in the fullest sense; the necessity that the people of our country should understand what we have done and suffered and are suffering, more in mind than body, enough physically; in brief, the immense importance that the whole truth about this attack and repulse, with the results be made known throughout the length and breadth of our land, I pray that the Lord himself - the God of nations - will give an etching in those early telegraphic words which shall convey to the people the truth and the whole truth. I believe that in the past of this war the falsehoods, misrepresentations and withholding of facts have resulted purely in evil. But lest my prayer be not granted and not only not the whole truth but actually what is false be scattered among the people to make the first & most lasting impressions of this fighting & failure. I will sit in my cold tent late at night with the weariness which has resulted from the continued tension of nerves, of muscle & of mind during the past five days and the depression which resulted from the blight our cause has received and will record some of the facts which come under my observations before they are forgotten.

There will undoubtedly be a great clamor in the South and among Rebels of the North against the sacking and pillage of Fredericksburg and all persons will agree that had it been practicable it would have been far better to have had the valuables of the city seized and confiscated by Government. But it was in the dusk of evening that our troops took possession of the city and they were compelled to enter the houses to drive out the Rebels from their hiding places. Most of the houses had already been riddled and shuttered and their contents either damaged or destroyed by the solid shot and bursting shells. Such an entry of the city as a whole or of the individual houses as the enemy forced us to make necessitated the devastation, which we deplored. And as to the pillage, it was the natural and unavoidable consequence when in the darkness of the night the soldiers entered building after building and saw all kinds of property before them to be wasted or appropriated according to their will.

On Saturday morning Gen. Sumner's Grand Division was ordered to carry the enemy's works in front. Gen Couch's Corps containing French's, Hancock's and Howard's Divisions were upon the right. Gen Wilcox Corps upon the left. Of Franklin's part in the battle I shall have little to say since I did not witness it. His Grand Divn crossed about two miles below the city and was expected to make a simultaneous attack.

Selecting the only street perpendicular to the river which was not exposed to a direct enfilading fire from the enemy's batteries visibly in position in earth works, Gen. French, whose turn it was to lead that day, made his debut from town at about 10 A.M. As soon as his column was in motion the enemy began to shell it vigorously but with comparatively little effect. He marched along Hanover Street hugging the right closely as the left was visible from one of the enemy's breast-works. This street leads into a ravine which is bridged just beyond the limits of the city. The column passed over this bridge and then at once deployed and advanced in line of battle. But before they deployed they came within range of the Rebel rifles, which began to make such havoc. Hancock soon followed French his troops showing great courage and steadiness and getting up the hill in the face of the deadly storm of bullets. Howard's Division was held as the <reserve> of the Corps because of their lead in the battle of Saturday and their severe loss therein. But at one o'clock this Division was in motion towards the field. The officers and men have resolute if not cheerful faces as they marched steadily along Hanover Street.

And that would be a barren soul indeed not moved to admiration at sight of this unflinching march into the

most imminent peril for all and certain death for many of the number. And the administration there first awakened only became deeper and stronger in watching their conduct during that eventful day. Col Hall's Brigade containing the 19th & 20th Mass, the 7th Mich. which so distinguished itself in crossing the river on Thursday, the 42d & 59th N.Y. was deployed upon the right of the road and twice as a Brigade attempted an advance upon the enemy's rifle pits. The fire was too severe and they lay down and held their position the remainder of the day & evening. Col. Owen's Brigade deployed & advanced upon the left. This is "Burns' Brigade" commanded by Gen Howard at Antietam. They went steadily forward far up the slope in the face of the hottest fire and halted in advance of all other troops. Then they held their ground all day and until relieved by the Regulars at 2 next morning. Col Owen several times sending word that he would lead his men in a charge up the hill again if he could have support.

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12/19/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-084

H'd Qr's 2nd Divn 2d  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

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H'd Qr's 2nd Divn 2d Corps  
Near Falmouth Va  
Dec 19 1862

My dear Mother

Fairly settled again in the camp at which I found the Division when I arrived the night before the great assault was undertaken. I am happy to feel that I have a little leisure in which I can converse with you more considerably. I hardly know what I have written you during the week and a day just past. I do know that I have given a very imperfect record of what has been done and shared in doing by your two sons as well as the feelings and thoughts of this time of a life - time which have filled up my hours and minutes.

I am not now, however, going to make up the deficiency but will write the uppermost thoughts of this morning. I have been writing letters and attending to other business properly of the A. A. G.'s department since Breakfast - sitting in Otis' tent. Otis has a new tent which he has had pitched upon a stockade made of split timber about three feet high. The crevices are filled with a mud-plaster upon the outside which affords a tight wall. He had a fireplace of brick made upon one side and a hearth of the same and though the fireplace does not heat up so rapidly as our central stove yet on the whole I think Otis has the most comfortable as well the neatest and pleasantest abode. His floor is made of cedar boughs which look pretty and smell sweet.

I have been interrupted in my letter by our old friend and commissary Capt Bulloch who called in for a social chat being over here on business. He proposed among other things to furnish us with some dried peaches and some butter. We use about 4 lbs a day of the latter and the last we got cost us 50 cts per lb. It is 32 cts in Washington I believe.

It was rather a cold night but today is milder. I now tent with Capt. Whittlesey which I like especially as he has a genius for fixing up all manner of conveniences and comforts. He has made a door to the tent, a floor from boards of boxes, a brick furnace-like bottom to the stove which retains the heat admirably. Capt. W. and I together have a colored boy 13 years old who came to the Army 8 months ago from Charlestown Va. He and his father, mother, 4 brothers & sisters belonged to a lady there. He just came in and is taking my 2d Lt shoulder straps off my coat as I have some new 1st Lt straps to take their place. "Tom" or "Tommy" is a very good boy for his place - diligent and ready.

Capt. W., Lt. Stimson and I each have a severe cold - perhaps owing to changing from camp to house and back again owing to our brief residence in Fredericksburg. Otis is remarkably well and talks of asking for leave of a few days to go to Philadelphia for his new arm which has been making there.

We are located upon the top of a conical hill covered with woods except here upon the summit so that our tents are not visible until you get up here which you do by a winding path. The axes incessantly whacking away (in cutting and preparing wood for fires at these Head Quarters) remind me of our door-yard at home in early Spring. We are burning oak at present.

You see I have temporarily abstained (I should say naturally) from writing about the fight in this letter. There has been a flag of truce for several days under which we have had parties in the river burying <the dead>.

Last night I learned with great grief for the first time that Capt. Hutchins of the 16th - Charlie Hutchins was killed. His Regt fought with Franklin and lost heavily and I fear there will be more than one mourning family, on account thereof in Leeds. I know nothing in regards to the rest - except that I saw the name of Augustus Luce wounded who I think belongs to Rowland's Church and Lt Edwards wounded who graduated at Bowdoin last summer. I trust their wounds are not mortal. I suppose Mr. Bates' folks will have heard whether the 12th Mass was engaged. Reynolds Corps was in the hottest of the fight upon the left and I believe the 12th is in his Corps.

Tell Dellie I was happy to get his first letter last night and not to trouble himself about articles to pay for his paper as I have sent three to be placed to his credit. I had not heard before much about Huldah's funeral. Think you, father and Dellie ought to go and see George [George Lothrop, Huldah's husband] & the girls often now for they will be lonely. The Lord bless them & all mourning hearts. How many there are now in our stricken land.

Some think that Burnside will be relieved. What a mistake that Banks was not sent against Richmond. Failure upon failure - mistake succeeding mistake and worse, sin added to sin. What will become of our once flourishing Republic. Pray, pray, pray, I would say to all the loyal women of the country and the men need the exhortation more than the women.

Love to all, from Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

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12/26/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-085

H'd Q'rs 2nd Div 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

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H'd Q'rs 2nd Div 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va  
Dec 26 1862

My dear Mother

For fear I may not get another so good an opportunity to write for several days as I hear we are to move back soon. I will get a letter ready for the mail which leaves here this afternoon. It will reach Washington tomorrow.

I have this forenoon been over & made a call upon my old Regiment 61st N.Y. Very few of the old officers are left. My promotion dates as far back as 26th of May so that 7 months of additional pay amounting I believe to about \$5.00 per month is already due & I can get it as soon as the commission arrives which is on its way. Col Miles formerly fellow-aid with me has gone home with a wound in the neck not dangerous. Capt Mazo whom I follow in promotion will soon be Maj. and if there were no objection to having a Capt. detailed as aid I could be promoted again. Gen. Sedgewick has now arrived & takes command of the Corps. He is now with Otis in his tent. His wrist is a little lame, otherwise fully recovered. He is kind & disposed to put implicit confidence in Otis so that our relations will be the pleasantest.

It is warm as May now but the Misses Washington upon whom I called with Otis yesterday & who live near here say that we shall have much colder weather yet & probably some snow.

Today I have been looking about to try & find a cooking stove & mess furniture for Gen. Sedgwick takes his away now. We never have had a stove & I did not succeed in getting one today. It is now evening. I did not get my letter done before going out with Mr. Atwood (aid) for the <person fore> mentioned. We have the prospect of getting a mess chest &c from Gen Couch's H'd Q'rs as they will consolidate two <families> which have each had their mess.

Gen. Couch is only away on leave and it is thought will not like it when he hears that Gen. Sedgwick has his Corps.

We had a good letter from Rowland a day or two ago in which he says they are going to make Jan 1st a day of fasting & prayer. Not having rec'd a line from you since I came out I do not know about your intentions or whether it is <feasible> for you to comply with Rowland's invitation to spend the 1st week of 1863 with him. I hope you can go for I know you would enjoy it & I think it would be mutually pleasant and profitable. I have never learned whether father rec'd the \$30 which I sent him from Washington in safety. Please let Dellie mention it if you do not get opportunity to write.

Mrs. Whittlesey writes that a rain has carried off all the snow. Is it so in Leeds? It looks & feels like rain here. I fear we will have a storm to move in.

Otis is writing Lizzie. Says you must not get lonely. That perhaps he shall come to Leeds to live when he gets back as some of his friends are very desirous he shall hale from that Congressional district. You have our prayers & <absolute> love.

Affectionately,  
C.H.H.

Love to Dellie & to father. A happy New Year to all.

P.S. Otis includes \$20 for mother - a New Year's gift.

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1/1/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* [Mother]

CHH-290

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[Undated Fragment found between 6/21/64 and 7/2/64]

[page] 5

Rev. Mr. Alvord Secretary of the Tract Soc. has written for Gen. Howard to <prepare> him a pass from Gen. Burnside to distribute books & labor as heretofore. Otis has also asked permission for a lady, Mrs. Harris to come & attend to the wounded. She has been much with the army & we know her well.

Otis tonight rec'd a letter from Lizzie – all well. The ambrotype of Guy is a good one. Capt. W. has just got a good photograph of his wife. Have you ever called & got the 3 photographs at Lockes which I paid for? We hope to see Sam. Hicks before many days. He will be a source of much satisfaction if he comes & serves our mess.

I wonder whether any of the Leeds boys in the 16th Me. were lost or wounded in the battle. How does Uncle Charles Knapp seem to take the death of Capt. Hutchins? [Charles Hutchins died Dec, 1862]

Dr. Wiggin who stayed with us several days is not well but has returned to his Regt. Melville Merrill & Coleman two schoolmates at Yarmouth & much esteemed friends are both in the 17th employed in the Hospital. Tell Dellie that Mattacks is considered one of the best if not the best officer of the lines in the Regt. He is now Captain.

Thos. Rubin whom I saw a day or two since has got entirely well. Did you see Mrs. Wm Turner? I do hope you will be able to write a few lines if no more. I tho't you would not let a Sabbath pass without writing when at home.

Capt. Owen is to be our Qr. Mr. & Capt Balloch commissary.

(see 1st page)



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1/3/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-087

H'd Qr's 2nd Divn. 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

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Probably Jan 3 1863 [written in a handwriting other than Charles]

H'd Qr's 2nd Divn. 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va

My dear Mother,

Having opportunity to send a letter early in the morning before the R.R. train leaves for Aquia, I will write though it may not be a long letter. Otis is reading aloud from today's paper, which we now get from Washington quite regularly. Capt. Whittlesey is here. He has a sty upon one eye - very uncomfortable. We have had some rain today - the first since the night of the 15th ult when we evacuated Fredericksburg. Dr. Dyer, our present Medical Director, joined our Head Quarters yesterday. He has been staying with his Regt. (20th Mass) heretofore. He is a good natured & good looking man - about 35 years old.

Capt. Owen returned from a short leave tonight which he obtained in the interval of changing from Gen. Birney to Gen. Howard. He is said to be an excellent Qr. Mr. In fact he was with us a while after the first Bull Run and Otis secured him the appointment of Brigade Qr. Mr. He now becomes one of our family again. His clerk Mr. Bennett has been here for a week - during his absence and is a pleasant young man. He plays the flute beautifully - was in here (Otis' tent) Sabbath evening and accompanied our Hymn-singing with the flute. He also sings tenor well.

We were very glad to have an actual letter from you again. We were also rejoiced to hear from you thro' Rowland while you were with him.

You give us the first news of poor Chas. Berry's death. The 16th is many miles from us. When I visited the 3d Maine I inquired about Ruggles Keay the first time I was there after the battle & I meant to have told you when I mentioned the others that Ruggles was well and attending the wounded in hospital. His health was good and he was said to be cheerful & happy. I should have seen him had he not been away in the Division Hospital.

I was glad to know that you had rec'd my numerous letters.

Otis could not understand why the thought of him gave you a pang of suffering. He seems very happy - is well and contented - never had a better tent. Our staff very satisfactory. Our old Commissary Balloch whom you will remember as being a pious, kind & generous man joins us again tomorrow.

We have new mess furniture bought in Washington - a nice cook - and matters of the Division generally favorable.

Lt. Atwood A.D.C. who went to Washington got our Dec. pay. He bought me a hat, silk scarf or neck-tie, paper collars & some other little things. I answered Mr. Boothby's letter after trying my best to get the privilege of going for Walter's body. A flag of truce for such purpose could not be reached. Where are Mr. Wheeler's sons, & which one was wounded? You spoke of Rev. Mr. Smith of Wayne & this reminds me of Lieut. G.W. Smith son of George Smith formerly of W. who belongs to the 19th Me. (Col. Sewall) and called to see us last night. He is a member of the Cong. Church of Rockland where he has been for 5 or 6 years. He used to go to Otis' school in Wayne. He seems to be a very fine young man and good officer. He will probably be promoted to 1st Lt. before long. He is said to be one of the best officers in the Regt. I was glad to hear from Clark Custis. Has he got home yet? Otis keeps Guy and Grace (ambrotypes) standing facing him upon the table - leaning against a book.

It is clear & growing colder this evening. The moon is out bright and nearly full. We feel quite satisfied with the latest news from the west. I do hope that this at Murfreesboro will prove a fruitful victory.

Judge Fuller of Augusta & Col. Sawtelle of the army native of Norridgewock Me. now Quarter Master for Gen. Sumner called here today. Before the rain this forenoon Otis reviewed one of his brigades. I have been reading a little in Dickens works this P.M. now reading "Oliver Twist" when I have nothing else to attend to. This is the week of prayer and I trust that many sincere petitions for our country will go up in faith. We have had our evening worship.

Otis says "Give my love to Mother & tell her I had to have the buttons set over today, my coat having become too small of late." John reset the buttons.

Rowland wrote that Betsey Bates kept house for father in your absence. Is she still with you? If so please give her my kind remembrances and best wishes for health and happiness. My love also to Roland & Cynthia & family and to <Louise>, Emma, Warren & theirs, if you see any of them.

Dellie's school is drawing to a close. Perhaps you will have him at home awhile.

Please ask father what he thinks about my putting a hundred dollars in the Savings Bank. I can spare about \$100 now I think & it seems about as good as any plan to me to put it in the Savings Bank. I don't know whether the tax is the same there as when invested in stock or not.

Three young men of the Christian Commission who are visiting the camps to distribute religious reading & hospital <stins> called here today. Two of my Bangor Class are engaged in this work. Otis is reading now yesterday's Richmond paper. Gen. Bragg is not quite so sanguine in his later dispatches as he was. God can give us victory - O that he may find it consistent with his glory.

Yr Affectionate Son. C.H.H.

P.S. I enclose \$20 and will send more soon for deposit. C.H.H.

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1/10/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* [Rodelphus Gilmore]

CHH-297

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1/10/1863 [Date estimated from reference to Chas Berry death in Mother's letter of 1/3/1863]

(5) [this must be the fifth page in a letter. The first 4 pages apparently are missing. It is apparently written to Charles' brother Dellie]

It will probably be same price as the other, if so you will have enough to buy the express.

Poor Chas Berry we did not know of his death till mother's letter came tonight. [Charles Berry was from Leeds and served in the 16th Regiment, Maine Infantry and died on 12/25/1862, from wounds received probably during the Battle of Fredericksburg, 12/13/1862.]

Mother does not seem very cheerful. She must keep up a good heart if only for the benefit of the afflicted and downcast who are about her. Now is the time for the strong minded and those who live upon the higher motives and those who are supported by an exalted faith, to stand up cheerful, trustful & steadfast. Now we shall see who has true energy of character for this always gives hope and hope sheds cheering light over the character & life.

Those who have constant communion with Him who is the source of all strength & grace will in these times, I anticipate, begin to shine. O that we of our little circle of family may be able to live constantly near to Christ. I feel the need of others' prayers and I try to remember my dearest friends always when at the <>. My health is now excellent - cold much better - and I see not why I may not continue in the service which I am so much needed. We have every assurance that Otis will be Maj. Genl. This will not promote me unless he has a Corps or Capt. W. resigns & he doesn't intend to do this I think. You will probably be disappointed about seeing him the first of the <>. He thanked me for your message - seems to take an interest in you.

I would add the Herald (N.Y.) to the papers you mentioned for suppression. It is too bad for the enemy to have so much aid & comfort as that gives them daily.

You will at least have some time to read and write when your school is done. Try & form industrious habits now and they will never leave you. We have just had prayers. Religion, pure & undefiled, is worth more than all the honor & emoluments of the world. Let us never underate its value.

Good night, with love to father & mother. Yr. Affectionate br. C.H. Howard

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1/14/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-088

H'd Q'rs 2nd Divn 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.

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H'd Q'rs 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Jan 14 1863

My dear Mother,

Your letter of the 9th & 10th came last night - informing us that we were to expect Mr. Hicks with lots of good things very soon. He will probably reach here by Friday evening. Since we sent to Washington & refitted & refurnished our Mess we have fared very well.

The Sabbath when you began your letter we had the privilege & happiness to attend a religious service conducted by our well-tried friend Rev. Mr. Alvord. He now has a tent & spends most of his time at our H'd Q'rs. We had a good prayer meeting Sabbath evening. It would have done your heart good to be present. The singing was excellent and after the meeting was over we continued to sing hymns. Now that Capt. Balloch has come we have two flutes. Mr. Bennet (Capt. Owen's citizen clerk) had one before & is a fine player. Now either Capt. B. or Capt. Whittlesey plays with him. Lately at these H'd Qr's we have had great Sunday privileges. But the attendance upon the service which was held with the 2nd Brigade - the one Otis had at Antietam - was very small. The men do not incline to come out and the officers, many of them, have less interest in it than the men.

Yesterday I wrote Dellie giving him an account of the painful occurrence of Monday. The poor boy breathed his last breath of anguish in the night. It is a great relief to our feelings to know that he is at peace with his Saviour whom he told Otis he loved and on whom he was wont to rely. He was remarkable for his piety and unvarying good conduct.

Thank Cynthia for her donation. I am glad she thinks of us. How is Roland? Give kind remembrance from me to Miss Lucy Shaw. I should have been disappointed had she not come to live with you this winter. You do not mention Oscar. Is he well?

I feel anxious to hear how Isabella is. If you see her, give her my kind regards if you please.

We have had intimations of a move but whither or in what force is not known.

There is much semi-disloyalty among both officers & men in the army, caused I think by reading the N. Y. Herald. I wrote two letters last week to the Press. Did you see them? The no. of generals who are pro-slavery in their sentiment is larger than the no. who are heartily in favor of the Proclamation of Emancipation [Issued 22 September 1862 & 1 January 1863].

There is danger that this division of sentiment may ruin our cause in the North. We need a single-hearted unanimous devotion to the Government in order to receive the blessing of God without which it is vain that we fight. But with the <Divine> <> heretofore so mercifully vouchsafed to us, your sons, we at least will be found doing our duty.

I will inclose two twenty dollar bills, making \$100 in all that I have sent. What will father probably do with it? With love to father & an abundant share to yourself.

Yr. Affectionate Son,  
C.H.H.

P.S. Otis is writing letters. We are both well. C.H.H.

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2/10/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother (Rodelphus  
Gilmore)

CHH-089

Head Qrs 2n Divn  
Near Falmouth , Va

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Head Qrs 2n Divn  
Near Falmouth , Va  
Feb 10 1863

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is my turn to write again, almost doubly so, as Rowland sent me your last to him. It is a bright warm morning like some April day in Maine.

Otis is sitting upon a Military Commission for the trial of a Rebel citizen who was with a party of Rebel soldiers who fired upon some of our troops. It may cost him his life. Otis is the President of the Comn. It consists of several Generals and some 3 or 4 Cols. The Comn sits at the Phillips house and Otis is going round by the 3d Maine.

Weds. Feb 11th

I went with Otis yesterday but instead of staying at the Court I rode with Capt. Weir (brother of my friend John of West Point) down to view the battle-field upon the left where Franklin crossed Capt. W. was A.A.G. to Gen. Baird and was just by him when he was killed. He pointed out the spot to me from a hill which over-looked the plain upon the other side of the river.

We rode five or six miles and came back just as the Comn adjourned - 3 P.M.

I then rode with Otis to the 3d Me. Saw Dexter almost the first man. He is now a Sergt. John Keene seemed the same as ever.

I carried a recommendation which I had written and Otis signed for Corpl. Bigelow who hopes to be an officer in a negro Regiment of which Cyrus Hamlin is to be Col.

You have seen that the Grand Divns have been broken up. So Otis returned to the Divn. I had a hard weeks work as A.A.G. for the Corps. You ask about rank. Mine does not increase unless Otis commands a Corps. In that case I will become Maj. (If senior aid as I undoubtedly should be). Capt. W. will become Maj. by virtue of Otis' promotion and if he has a Corps will be Lieut. Col. The other aids (two) will be Captains. But now there does not seem to be any Corps for Otis to have. The 9th has just embarked to go South.

I approve of your selection of books though Abbot does not write a good style. It would not do for you as a lawyer to fall into his flourish and redundancy. That work of Dr. Smith's must be almost invaluable. I had not heard of it.

Hope when the proper time comes you will tell Mary frankly that your best judgement after mature deliberation forbids a closer bond and therefore dictates that any which now exists should be sundered. It would never do to marry a girl whose father it was possible for you to denominate "the villainous old Captain". I see Captain Starbird occasionally. He makes a fair Captain. Hope you will call on Mrs. W. whom I esteem very highly also Mrs. F.

Your Affectionate brother.  
C.H.H.

P.S. Mrs. Whittlesey writes that there has been some religious interest. Have you known of it?  
All well.

It is too muddy to think of moving now.

Hooker is getting the hearts of the soldiers by his order granting furloughs. Have you seen Col. Chamberlain?

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3/4/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-090

Studio Building No B  
Tenth Street, New York

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Studio Building No B  
Tenth Street, New York  
Mar 4, 1863

My dear Mother,

I am expecting Otis back tomorrow morning when I will join him and we will try & reach the army by Saturday.

Last Thursday I went up to West Point & came back Monday P.M. Enjoyed visiting my old friends there much. The day I returned I called over to Brooklyn and saw Mrs. Perry Lee and engaged to attend her cousin's wedding with her the next day.

It was a gay time and I saw there H.W. Beecher, Mrs General Fremont & other distingue's.

The bride was Miss Sarah Dwight. The bridegroom was Capt. Raymund of Gen. Fremont's staff. I also met Capt Jack Howard of their staff. He is from Brooklyn originally.

Here I stay with my friend Johnny Weir. I am very pleasantly situated. His studio is hung all around with beautiful paintings of his own or his father's. He is exhibiting one of his father's called "The Nun" or "Taking the Veil". He expects to sell it for \$6,000. He has sold one for \$3,500 since he has been in the city. Besides he takes 25 or 30 dollars a day for the exhibition of the paintings.

John is an excellent young man - accomplished in manners ,refined in taste, moral in all his habits and better than the whole, he is a man of piety & faith.

Last night we went to Brooklyn to the Academy of Art where there was a great assemblage of the rich & refined people of the city to view an exhibition of paintings. We took Mrs. Lee & met there the Trippers with whom I had dined after attending the wedding.

This forenoon I went over & got Mrs. Lee & conducted her to <Ganpil's> Gallery to see "The Nun" & then brought her to this studio where we met Johnny & then sat a little while admiring the art & the novelty of the Painter's Studio.

I have but just returned from Brooklyn - bringing back some wedding cake which I am to take to Perry. I meant to have had some photographs taken but have not been able to find the time.

While at West Point I called upon Mrs. Grey & Miss Jeanie in their new house which Miss Jeanie had built upon a plan of her own & pays for by the profits of a book - a love story - which she wrote for the purpose of getting the needed income. Hoping to find a letter at Hdqrs.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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3/15/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-091

Hd. qrs. 2nd Divn 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.

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Hd. qrs. 2nd Divn 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Mar. 15, 1863

My dear Mother,

We got a letter from Dellie yesterday written after he had visited Leeds. I am happy to know you are well and father in so good health. Dellie thinks father hears better than he has for some time. I was very glad you saw Otis. Dellie mentions his confirmation.

I intend to send you the Tribune giving account of the presentation of the Silver Pitcher. It was simply accidental that it occurred on the same day as his Confirmation as <> Gen. for he had got the Pitcher thru' Capt. Whittlesey's brother-in-law Mr. <Tappan> of Philad. and had it marked as given Feb 14 - the anniversary of his wedding.

We have had no doubt of his confirmation. Now Capt. Whittlesey is Major. He learned the fact the day he was in Washington on his way home. He has a leave of fifteen days. I do his duty and therefore shall not be likely to write so many letters.

Day before yesterday I visited the Third Maine. It has moved so as to be near wood and is some six miles from us now. Saw Perry. He will probably be on Birney's staff again as Inspector with rank of Major. No benefit except in his associations. Otis' rank entitles him to that Corps (3d) but as Sickles (now in command) was confirmed as Maj. Gen. I presume he will retain it. I am much interested that Otis should have a Corps, of course, as it would make me major.

I saw Dexter - never looked more hearty in his life. Ruggles Keay had had a bad cold & did not look as well but he is getting better. Henry Turner was well. They (3) all tent together now. Have you seen Capt. John Keene? I suppose he will be back this week. Dexter thinks he is the best line officer in the Regiment. He also speaks very highly of Perry. The latter had just rec'd a letter from his wife who is now boarding (her mother also) in Brooklyn, near her Aunt's. Did I mention the wedding I attended there? Miss Sarah Dwight was married to Capt. Raymond of Gen. Fremont's staff. I saw Mrs. Fremont there. She is a large and rather coarse looking lady - of good deal of strength of character.

Otis is well. We got the photographs from Philad. yesterday. His are very good and I should say mine are pretty good but rather light.

You may have seen that Gen. Sumner has a command in the West. For the sake of seeing our Country I would like to have Otis ordered to his Department. But I have no expectation of this kind and doubtless all will be for the best. Maj. Whittlesey will meet with great opposition from his wife & from the faculty of the College - to returning - but if we remain with this Divn. I doubt not he will return. The Adjutant Generals are fixtures to a Divn or Corps so if the General should have a Corps there would be no certainty of his being able to have Maj. Whittlesey, were it not for this law I should try hard to get Maj. Whittlesey's place in case he does resign. As it is, I am in uncertainty what I better do.

You gave unexpected good news about Gustavus Lane. How about Cyrus?

Otis has gone down to Corps Hd. Qrs. for a few moments to see Gen. Couch. Last evening we rode over to the Lacey House and attended a prayer meeting. It is two miles over there. Two ladies who attend upon the Hospitals, &c. in this army, make that house their Hd. Qrs. and they have a prayer meeting every night attended by members of a Regt. camped near and by the Pickets which are along the river a few rods off and only half of whom are on post at a time. We found the room crowded. Otis took up the greater part of the time after we got there, though we sang twice and a prayer was offered. There has been a conversion there during the past week. Mrs. Harris is the lady who is the leader in the matter. She was called in a speech at the Hall of Representatives (where Otis spoke on our way home when on



leave). The Florence Nightingale of America. She is an old lady - i.e. above fifty I should judge. Did you get the book "Tactics" which I sent. Otis calls it a very good representation of the folly of West Point in certain circles. The author and her mother you know are very dear friends of mine.

Did father invest the \$100 at Monmouth?

Very affectionately your son  
C.H. Howard

P.S. It continues to storm a good deal and I think we will not move before the end of two weeks. We got a note from Dr. Bradford saying Thomas B. was sick with Typhoid Fever. He seemed very well when here. His Regiment got a very high record on inspection. Kind regards to Roland & Cynthia & Miss Sharon - also to the neighbors. C.H.H.

P.S. 2nd. I will inclose one of my pictures. Was the one you got from Lewiston better. I mean the last one. If so please send it to me. C.H.H.

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3/27/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-092

Hdqrs. 2nd. Divn.  
Near Falmouth Va

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Hdqrs. 2nd. Divn.  
Near Falmouth Va  
Mar. 27 1863

My dear Mother,

The last I heard from you was by letter from Rowland which you were at his house for one night.

It is a beautiful day - warm as any day in May. I hear a bird merrily singing. All the staff are away at Gen. Birney's Divn. attending a hurdle race &c to which we were all invited. Otis is here & as I am Acting Adjutant General I remained behind. Besides I did not care much to go since I did not enjoy the similar celebration of St. Patrick's day in the Irish Brigade. Too many got drunk and there were some accidents.

I would like, however, to take a lively ride in this pure air. I sit at my desk with the door of the tent open - just returned from dinner. Gen. Hancock was over this forenoon & called on Otis. He says that Gen. Hooker told him that Gen. Howard was to have the 11th Corps (Siegels) but Otis learned at Hd Qrs. yesterday that Gen. Hooker had sent a paper to Washington asking either that Gen. Siegel be ordered back (he is away on leave) or that there be a vacancy declared to which he could appoint the General he wished. He will undoubtedly appoint Otis if Siegel does not come back.

No leaves extend over April 1st now - so I suppose we will move soon after that date. Did you enjoy Otis' visit?

John Keene came here the Monday after getting back Saturday. I was very much pleased & interested that he saw you & father & had a good long interview at Oliver's. John says Oliver is going to California to escape conscription. John comes back in the best of spirits & determined to fight out this war - in order to bring it to a righteous close. If all our officers were of his make we would have a wonderful army.

Poor General Sumner went very suddenly at last though at his beautiful home in Syracuse. His last words were noble - "God save my country - the United States of America". He was a man & officer who discharged every duty with the strictest integrity. Have you seen in the papers Otis' order announcing his death to this Divn

Major Mack U.S.A. a particular friend of Otis' reported killed at Murfreesboro was badly wounded but his wife wrote that he was alive & doing well. It was the last letter she ever wrote. For a letter from the minister told Otis that Mrs. Mack was dead. She was in feeble health & sank very rapidly after the excitement about her husband. Otis got a letter from him last night. He will get well of his wounds but the loss of his wife is a terrible stroke.

All well at 3d Division - except that Ruggles Keay is not very well. If I had gone to the races I should have seen many of them as they belong to Birney's Divn. I hope you will write often.

Your affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

P.S. Major Whittlesey has just this moment arrived - well!!

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3/31/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-093

Hdqrs. 2nd Divn. 2nd  
Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.

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Hdqrs. 2nd Divn. 2nd Corps  
Near Falmouth Va.  
Mar 31 1863

Dear Mother,

This is probably the last letter I shall date at these Hd. qrs. The order assigning Otis to the 11th Corps (Siegel's) temporarily arrived this afternoon and we will take our departure for Brook's Station tomorrow morning near which is the 11th Corps - about 6 miles to the rear of this place. One of the General of Divisions is the celebrated Carl Shurz orator and <warm> patriot & it is said a very gentlemanly man. Steinwehr is another and McLean the third.

Your letter came the day I wrote my other, and today another from you arrived just after the order. This contained the photograph which no one here thinks as good as the one I had taken in Philada.

I will notice points to be answered first in your former letter Mar. 22.

You speak of your non-interference with my love-affairs. If all my friends could say the same - much bitterness of feeling would have been dispensed with. As to the two (Mother & daughter) you mentioned - you seem to have imbibed the feelings, if I say not, prejudices, of some other person or persons. And why take the views of any one else in preference to mine - if you must judge through another - and cannot see for yourself? I do not like it that you should so prejudice anyone and especially valued friends of mine

I wish you could know them both well but not because I anticipate ever any nearer relationship. They are, however, among the few friends I love and they probably will continue to be dear friends as long as I live.

You speak of some of the young men of Leeds, as though they would shirk the service of their Country. If they do they will live to be ashamed of it. Put the name of John Keene by the side of theirs fifty years hence and mark the contrast.

The wedding in Brooklyn was at the home of the Bride - at Mr. Dwight's.

I too have a distaste for the newspapers. I would much prefer help make some news which would be worth the reading of my friends at home - and of all lovers of their country.

Gen. Sumner deserves great honor from the people of the United States. He was true as tried steel. Did you see Otis' order on the death of Gen. S. which was published in some of the papers?

Glad father has invested at Monmouth for me. Wish he would by consultation with Mr. Libbey collect any dividend & interest that is due - put it with the \$150 at Savings Bank and procure some Bath Bonds if practicable. I think Capt. Potter would be willing to aid me in the matter and would be likely to know about the Bonds. I shall have some money - say \$50 to make up a round number and can send it any time. I must get a new outfit now. Am getting very shabby. Doubt if we move for a week. Had a snow storm last night. Snow all gone tonight. Please write when ascertained how much there is to invest for me - and whether I can have the Bath Bonds.

Love to all. Your prayers are greatly needed & highly valued by  
Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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4/1/1863      *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-094

Hdqrs 11th Corps  
Stafford Court House

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Hdqrs 11th Corps  
Stafford Court House  
April 1st 1863

My dear brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

in accordance with an order rec'd yesterday assigning Otis temporarily to the command of the 11th Corps - we left Hd. Qrs. 2nd Divn. Right after Breakfast this morning and rode over here about 10 miles. Had to search somewhat to find the place. Found Gen. Carl Shurz in command. Hd. Qrs. At a house. He was very gentlemanly - is tall, full broad forehead - curly brown hair - reddish whiskers - wears spectacles & gives the impression of being a man of ability as he undoubtedly is. It is a bright moonlight night. Last night the whole army were April-fooled to say the least and I got scarcely any sleep. Had to get up to carry orders between 2 & 3 A.M. Had not been in bed an hour when wakened. It was said (telegraphed from Gen. Hd. Qrs) that the report had come from Sickle's Pickets that the enemy were advancing on the Archwood road.

It now proves to be all a fiction but I am very tired & could not write a decent letter. Have ridden nearly all day. Gen. Shurz rode to all the Divn's with us. He returns to his Divn for the present - Steinwehr has the 2nd - McLean the 1st. This last has two thirds American Regiments I believe. Every body at these Hd. Qrs (nearly) speaks German. Carl Shurz speaks German, French & English equally well. Otis is in the house - Stinson & I in tent. Leaves are granted again so we will not move at present.

Goodnight - I am ready to fall asleep.

Morning, Thursday.

Good sleep - not very early rising. Otis says he will have a reformation in matter of meals, Reveille et cetera. Very luxurious here. Commenced with breakfast at 7 ½ or 8 this morning. German cook startled by the announcement of three meals a day - Dinner at one P.M. An enormous staff in numbers. More than double the no. of other Corps. We are going to change Hd. Qrs. - bid adieu to house. Take some pine grove - straighten and straiter things generally.

Good camps - good soldiers. Picketing well done. Hospitals neat as <ever>. No sick men. Germans don't get sick. Go soldiering because they like it - cheerful. Carl Shurz disappointed but too much of a man to slacken in diligence in performance of his duty though returned to a single Divn & that a small one - only two Brigades in the Divn of this Corps. So the 11th is the smallest Corps in this army. No reserve artillery; 2 batteries for each Divn. It is cold & the wind blows. I go with Otis to select a site for Hd. Qrs., more convenient to the troops & more central.

Love to Ella. I look for that letter & yet I owe her one. Half of each of yours belongs to her & I have written enough to entitle me to another from her, if I reckon in this way.

Germans no longer "fight mit Zeegel" "Dey fight mit oword". Pray for us that we may have Grace & strength for new responsibility & <trial>.

Affectionately,  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Please mention to Mother and Dellie that you have heard from me &c.

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4/6/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-095

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Stafford Court House

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Stafford Court House  
Apr. 6th 1863

My dear Mother,

I believe I have not written you a letter since we came to this Corps.

I have just returned from a Review of all the Cavalry of the army by the President. This morning at 9 we started. Otis & all his Divn. Generals with their various staffs. We rode to Gen Hookers Hd. qrs. about 7 miles and these <> called on the President - and at 12 we all went out to the Review. It was exceedingly muddy. The day was cloudy - Saturday night we had a snow storm! And though the snow is almost all gone yet it made it very muddy. The cavalry was draw up in lines a mile long and we had a very tiresome ride in reviewing. The Pres. rode with Gen. Hooker. His little boy rode on a pony by his side. The Generals present rode next & then their staffs - which made a big battalion. Afterwards, as always in a Review, the Pres. took a station & all the Cavalry & light artillery passed him in platoons or companies. It took a full hour for it all to pass in this manner. We rode to Gen. Hooker's Hd. Qrs. again & the Generals gave their staffs permission to go home while they went to dine with the Pres. & Gen Hooker. Mrs. Lincoln was at the Review in a covered carriage. Attorney Gen'l. Bates was with her. He is an old man, with hair very grey.

We rode back tired & besmeared with mud. I saw Major Whittlesey there tho' did not get a chance to speak with him. He has been ordered to Gen. Howard & will come over tomorrow. He will not be A. A. G. for the present. Col. Meysenberg has that position and is an excellent officer as well as a very fine young man and agreeable gentleman. He speaks English as well as he does German & French equally well. I am going to tent with a German captain (on the staff) so as to learn to speak the German. The Captain can speak French too & I hope to learn some in that language. The Div'n. generals are very congenial & seem to like Otis. I think he will be popular as he could desire. Gen'l. Carl Shurtz is a fine gentleman & good General and we shall be sorry to lose him. It is thought he will be ordered West. Mr. Stinson & I came with the General from the 2nd Divn. Mr. Gilbreth (son of the superintendent of the Arsenal at Augusta and a nephew of Mr. Farwell), also came. He wishes to remain on the staff but has no commission yet - and I doubt if he remains.

Otis has got back. Had quite an interview with our Pres. & saw Mrs. Lincoln. No doubt he will be permanently in command of this Corps. Letter from Lizzie came tonight. Have been attending to papers for Otis since I began this letter & am now too sleepy & tired to write a good letter & I do not like to send any other to my dear Mother.

We are quite happy in our new situation & God grant we may have strength & grace to do our whole duty.

Your Affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

P.S. I have \$50 to invest which I will send soon. Please write about Bath Bonds and what action father has taken. I know he will not wait too much for me to direct but will do what is best for my interest. I have a great deal to occupy my attention. C.H.H.

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4/26/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-096

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brooks Station  
Va.,

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Near Brooks Station Va.,  
April 26th 1863

My dear Mother,

It is a bright warm afternoon and now the moon has changed we anticipate fair weather for some time. We had our Religious services this morning, conducted by Rev. Mr. Johnson Congregationalist of Bangor. Maj. Whittlesey had known him before. He is simply on a visit to the army. I have written to Rowland today. Got a letter from him & Ella yesterday. We were rejoiced to hear of Everett Bridgham's [a first cousin] conversion. Poor Aunt Aurelia [the sister of Charles' father Rowland and the mother of Everett] is very sick he writes. And Jane Bates has passed away from earth. We can hardly realize that Jane will not meet us with her cheerful face whenever we go home again to our good old neighborhood.

But the future life was very real to Jane. Her friends left behind are the only sufferers. God grant them the consolations of His infinite word - and that they all may be ready to go & join Jane when the summons comes. I desire to be ready. I know not as we are in the midst of any more uncertainty than you but it often seems so.

We search tomorrow morning for the upper Rappahannock - not so much as this has been revealed but I judge from indications unmistakable to me. The 12th Corps is also expected to march. How much more I do not know.

The Fast-day is nearing & I do hope for if not resulting from the united cry of many hearts. We will carry the works with the faith & prayers and perhaps God will this time bless us. At any rate in his own good time his Kingdom shall triumph & I cannot be too bitterly disappointed with this pure hope ever present.

Otis & I are perfectly well. The promotions (it is announced by telegraph) have been made. So I will have to exchange the title of Captain which I have held less than a month for that of Major. But this is of very little moment to me. Pray that I may always have a willing mind and grace needed for every duty.

Your Very Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Remember me kindly to Isabella & brother if you see them.

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4/26/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-097

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brooks Station, Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]  
Near Brooks Station, Va  
April 26th 1863.

My dear brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

It is a cool beautiful morning. I think we are to have pleasant weather now. Rev. Mr. Johnson of Hammond St Church [Bangor Maine] is here and conducted our Hd. Qr. Services this morning. The subject of his remarks was whether it is difficult or easy to be saved.

The rest are at dinner now. Several from our old Divn are over to see us. Miles (Col 61st N.Y.) was here & I rode with him to Gen. Barlow's after the service. Gen. B. used to be Col. Of my Regt.

Week ago today I think I was writing to you. Not yet moved but from certain mysterious movements round here and the fact that Gen. Hooker's aide was here makes me believe we march tomorrow morning. I shall know as soon as I have a moment to see "the General". He is at dinner & has so many guests that the table is full. I was away when the dinner was announced. I anticipate that we will march up river. All surmise as yet, however.

Fillebrown (Lt. Col.) 10th Me. Has been here. He is to be mustered out this week. Says Ladd is a Colporteur [peddler of religious books] with 15th Conn. Regt. down at Suffolk.

Yours & Ellas letter came yesterday. We felt sad to hear Jane Bates had gone, but believe she has only passed on to a glorious inheritance. Mr. Johnson seems to be a true man. Not equal to Mr. Quint for soldiers.

My apptmnt as Major & that of Captains Stinson & Griffeth (formerly of Gen. Burn's staff & with us at Antietam) have been made. I see no reason why I should ask any delay of a movement against the enemies of

[page 5 is missing]

P.S. As I may not be able to write, either send this to mother or communicate whatever of its contents she would like to know. I hope the good work all about you will, in answer to your prayers, come to be wrought in Farmington also. While the nation prays, I hope we will be able both to pray & to strike a vigorous blow for the right and against wicked rebellion.

P.S. Love to Father & very much to Mother.

C.H.H.

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5/1/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-098t

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps

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[a copy - all typed, including signature]  
Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
May 1st 1863

Dear Brother [probably Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is a bright warm morning. This portion of the army is resting after four days marching and two nights without sleep.

On the night of 27th ult. The second night after breaking up camp Gen. Howard's command crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford. They had marched thirteen miles that day. Some were in favor of waiting till next morning meanwhile getting the pontoons up & building the bridge. Gen. H. detailed a thousand men, who assisted in bringing up and laying the pontoons. This pushed the boats into Marsh river which empties into the Rappahannock near Kelly's Ford, immediately filled them with about fifteen men in each, pushed down that stream and across the Rappahannock. Meanwhile Gen. Howard had lined the north bank of the river with sharp shooters and drawn away the Rebel pickets. Some Rebel Cavalry however, dismounted, remained under cover of trees and in rifle pits until the first boats reached the shore when they suddenly took to their horses and fled. This occurred between 9 and 10 in the evening.

The building of the bridge was the charge of Capt. Comstock of U.S. Engineers - but was superintended by Gen. Howard in person. The bridge was completed about 11 o'clock, and a Regiment of Cavalry sent across directly. They scouted all the roads - captured some sabres which the Rebels in their haste left behind. It was about midnight when Gen. Howard crossed and before morning the entire Corps had taken position on the South side of the Rappahannock. The pickets were thrown out about two miles. Early in the morning the 12th Corps began to cross and after that the 5th. The 12th had had a full night's sleep and moved on to Germanna Bridge at the Rapidan. The 11th followed on the same road though they had little time for rest.

The 5th took a road to the left to Ely's Ford. When the head of the column reached Germanna Bridge they surprised about 125 Rebels who were rebuilding the bridge, capturing 75 with the loss of one man killed and one officer wounded of the Rebels. The troops then commenced marching across the Ford.

May 2nd morning. All well. Were shelled yesterday - Few wounded - Expect to fight today. We rely upon a higher power. God bless all at home.

Yr. Affectionate bro.  
C.H. Howard



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5/1/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-098

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
May 1st 1863

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May 2nd morning. All well - were shelled yesterday. Few wounded. Expect to fight today. We rely upon a higher power. God bless all at home.

Yr affectionate Brother  
C. H. Howard

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5/4/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-099

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Chancellorsville

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[On outside of letter:]

Chancellorsville

May 4 '63

C. H. Howard

To Mother

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
May 4 1863

Dear Mother

It is after dark and I have no candle but I will write you a little in the dark. In the terrible battle yesterday although we were often exposed to shot and shell yet our troops were not actually engaged. Our troops did not behave well yesterday & we were badly driven. My tentmate and fellow aide Capt Dessars was killed. Col. Miles was badly wounded. Last night we wakened several times by attacks upon our lines. By the guns we knew yesterday that Sedgwick was fighting near Fredericksburg. We heard the roar today and tomorrow will march to his relief, though we got pretty severely handled in yesterday's & Saturdays battle.

The Lord is our trusted guide.

I hope the Rebels will let us sleep tonight. I was awakened hrs before now by a tremendous firing on our right. So you see we sleep daytime.

We are behind rifle pits and could hold them against any force - if the troops will stand. You cannot tell how badly Otis felt so see them run away. A force seemed to seize them. Two German Regiments, <> first on our right which Jackson turned.

We think this will be the death blow to Rebellion.

Your loving son,  
C. H. Howard

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5/8/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-100

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brook's Station,  
Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]

Near Brook's Station, Va.,  
May 8 1863.

My dear brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

You must be aware that for the past week I have had no opportunity to write. Since the furious attack upon our Corps which began about 5 o'clock on Saturday neither my outward circumstances nor my feelings were favorable to letter writing. Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday we were more or less under fire. On Tuesday the Rebels showed a special design upon Otis. Finally shot Col Meysenburg's horse under him as he was by the General's side. After that Otis consented to go on foot when on the front and in certain range of the enemy's rifles.

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday until 3 o'clock Wed. morning we held the left with Gen. Slocum who was upon the extreme left. We were behind rifle pits but all the time expecting an attack and several times during night & day our Pickets were driven in.

Of course Otis felt the greatest anxiety for fear the troops would not stand even behind the impervious logs and earth which formed the "Rifle pit" so called and whenever firing commenced he would mount his horse & we would gallop to the point of attack in the greatest haste. I believe I will not attempt to give you a full account of the four days fighting today. I never experienced a more uncomfortable night than that of Tuesday May 5th. It began to rain in torrents in the afternoon. I was riding to find out a route by which to withdraw our Corps through the woods to U.S. Ford which was to be undertaken that night. I got thoroughly drenched. My feet as wet as if I had been wading a river. It continued to rain all night. We had been notified that our Corps which was to have been the next to the last (but in the event was the last to leave the front line) would march at 8 P.M. The rain, however, so raised the river as to break up the pontoon bridges of which we had these laid at U.S. Ford. Gen. Hooker had passed over & was therefore cut off from his army. Couch was in command and we rec'd word while we stood shivering over our meager fire (or sat upon wet cracker boxes) that the crossing would be delayed two or three hours. Then I was sure we would meet with disaster because it would be light long before the army could get over. And the enemy could easily create the greatest disorder & destruction. I said to General Schurz that nothing except a kind Providence could save us. At 2 A.M. we got word that two bridges had been reconstructed. We must wait for all the Corps on our right & it was three before I led out Gen Schurz. Our pickets were left out and a kind Providence did save us in the face of all probabilities to the contrary. Gen. Slocum with the 12th Corps started and marched off to the Ford before us, leaving the left which was strongly fortified & rested on the river completely exposed.

There also was a road and the most feasible point for the enemy to attack. The woods were not so thick. In fact there was considerable of an opening in front of the left. But I suppose the Rebel army retreated that very night to Gordonville. Officers from our Pickets reported hearing their artillery & trains in motion upon the Plank road.

I never saw so many troops at once as I saw that morning as the 5th, 3d, 2nd, 12th & 11th Corps all neared U.S. Ford. The 5th was drawn up in line upon the high ground to cover the crossing but happily did not have occasion to fire a gun.

Our artillery posted upon this side of the river & further down fired considerably but with how much occasion or what effect I do not know. Once over we had 13 miles to march to reach our camp. We got into camp before 9 that night. Got up a few Hd. qrs tents. Got something to eat & were all soon sound asleep. I believe it was after 9 next morning when Otis waked me by passing his hand over my forehead.

Of course we feel the effects of so hard a campaign - in dullness etc. but otherwise are well. I had some indication of Fever but am all right. We deeply feel the disgrace of our Corps.

It would have all been saved had not our best Brigade and Barlon (Americans) been detached & sent to support Sickles. I went with Otis to put it in position & we had not been back five minutes when the attack began upon our right. If we had had this our only reserve and our most reliable Brigade we could have kept our reserve artillery (3 batteries) in position and at work and I am perfectly confident could have held our ground. 3 Regts under Bushbeck did stick to the rifle pits till they were outflanked on both sides. 2 other Regiments of Schutz's command retired fighting.

Poor Dessour, my tentmate (a Captain & aid) was killed very near me. I saw his body lying in the road but could not even have it brought away. His poor wife will hardly survive the shock. He had resigned the Sabbath before solely on her account but Otis would not accept his resignation. In fact Capt. Dessour said he would not wish to leave just at such a time.

Otis is trying to devise plans of reorganization of different Brigades so as to have good Brigade Commanders and try to redeem our character in case another chance is given us.

All the army (and I suppose soon the Country will follow suit) is cursing the "Dutchmen". The first Brigade that broke was German but the others of the same Divn which did no better was purely American. Panic stricken. I never worked harder but could only stop one man at a time & then he wouldn't fight.

I will not write more. It is still stormy. Wish you could come & see us. All the Hospitals are near here.

Love to Ella.

We will be able to take the offensive in a fortnight.

Affectionately,  
C.H. Howard

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5/10/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* [Rowland B Howard]

CHH-296

11th Corps  
Nashville, Tenn

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[Undated fragment: "found between 5-8-63 & 5-17-63"]  
[5/10/1963 estimated]

[Letterhead]

United States Military Telegraph

By Telegraph from \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ 1863

To \_\_\_\_\_

of our lines. I am pretty weary and will soon try to get some rest anticipating considerable interruption during the night. Col. Le Duc is to load his train with baggage etc. tonight. The artillery begins to load tomorrow A.M. at 6. I send you a manuscript for you to read & make any suggestions for additions or changes before it goes to Mr. Abbott.

I wrote him I would write such an account at once.

In one place I wish you to correct where I think I wrote 7 or (8 thousand at most) please change it so as to read 8 or 9 thousand at most as the strength of the 11th Corps at the beginning of the battle.

I find there were about 10,500 or 11,000 all told artillery & Infantry officers & men and about 2,000 in Barlow's Brigade leaving 8,500 or 9,000 aggregate. I don't know as you will be able to read this scrawl. I will also write a short note and enclose a draft to Mother.

Love to Ella. Direct 11th Corps, Nashville Tenn for the present.

Your affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard

P.S. We hope to start before tomorrow night.

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5/17/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-101

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
May 17th, 1863.

My dear Mother,

It has been a warm pleasant day. We have had services at our Hd. qrs., as usual. The Band of the 33d Mass which plays so beautifully was in attendance. Rev. Mr. Warren of the Christian Commission officiated who has been laboring in the hospitals many of which - in fact all the General Hospitals of the Army - are located in this vicinity. The General Hospitals have all the worst cases of sick and all the wounded except such as have been conveyed to Washington - farther North. They consist of a large encampment (like a brigade) for a Corps. The Hospital tents are some 20 by 12 feet or perhaps larger. These in this vicinity look very neat & comfortable. Otis intends visiting our Corps hospital this P.M.

We had the great rarity of two ladies at services and at dinner today. Mrs. Genl. Barlow and Mrs Parker wife of Lieut. Parker of the Regular Army. Mrs. Parker was an acquaintance of Mrs. Barlow - and stays with Mrs B in a house not far from here although Lt. Parker belongs to another Divn. & another Corps. He gets Leave to visit his wife often now that we are doing but little. I think you will remember Gen. Barlow who now commands one of our Brigades and was formerly Colonel of my Regiment, 61st N.Y. - was with us at Fair Oaks. He is a brave & good officer. Mrs. B. is a very smart woman. She reached the Antietam battle field, the next day after the fight and was in time to take care of her husband who was wounded very severely.

Capt. Griffeth (aide) provides for our table now & we like it much better than when we boarded with a man - as on the recent campaign of river. It was not for the interest of the Caterer to have the best of food on hand always when we wished to eat. I may be wronging the man but the truth is we half starved part of the time & now we have adopted the old plan of feeding ourselves with one of our number for a Caterer. There are several messes at these Hd. qrs. Ours consists of Gen. O.O.H., Lt Col Asmussen, Lt. Col. Meysenburg, Major Whittlesey, Captains Stinson & Griffeth & myself. Seven in all, but we have company at table almost always. Today we had two officers from the old Divn. besides the two ladies & Lt. Parker.

We judged from what Rowland wrote that you are not so well nor in so good spirits as at some times. We are always sorry for any thing of this kind. We wish & pray that you may always be cheerful and happy.

In this terrible war and especially the sad reverses to our cause we find a great draft upon our Christian Faith and Hope and I may add often our Christian forbearance. But we still hold on and still trust that God will in the end prosper our glorious cause.

It was a terrible blow to Otis to have his Corps so signally fail. It was perhaps worse to submit to an inglorious return to the old camp & give up the campaign. But trusting in God we will never be utterly discouraged and now Otis keeps up good heart & is ready to do his part vigorously when the time shall come.

It is very quiet here. I hear some of the servants singing hymns. I wish Rowland could come & see us & bring Guy or Grace.

I think it likely that we may remain here for some time. If we were to move it should have been done a week or two ago. To take advantage of Stoneman's raid & the discomfiture of the Rebel army from the battles.

Did you get the \$100 draft on the Tribune association? I shall not have any more to send at present as I think of paying Otis for another horse, thus owning two.

I saw Perry a few nights since at Sickles Hd. qrs. It is not a good place for him. My old schoolmate Melville Morrill is a prisoner - taken while caring for the wounded. Hope you are writing me today.

Your Affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

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6/3/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-103

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brooke Station Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Near Brooke Station VA,  
June 3d 1863,

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

We were glad to get your letter directed to Otis, but intended for me I thought.

Tonight it is quite cool and comfortable. I hear the bands playing in almost every direction and if I could lose the consciousness that we were in the midst of hideous war (as I often do) it would be quite pleasant. You speak of your future occupation. I see no opening in the Army for you but something may yet "turn up".

Otis wrote in answer to some private catechisms on the subject - that he thought his duty lay in the Field and that some one else better be selected as the nominee for Governor. You were wise not to give any opinion as to his accepting.

I hear you sustained the Senior dignity while at Bath.

We move our Hd. qrs tomorrow into the woods not more than 1/4 mile from here.

On Monday we attended a celebration of the Anniversary of Fair Oaks with our old Brigade of the 2nd Corps. You remember the 5th N.H. 61st & 64th N.Y. & 81st P.V. If you do not at least I can never forget them. Our relations were always the pleasantest & they almost worship the Genl. Col. Cross is now in command of the Brigade, Gen Caldwell of the Divn. & Hancock of the Corps - Couch being on Leave. They gave the Genl a Review & then being drawn up in hollow square he (Otis) addressed them in a few words with a good deal of feeling. They cheered him most vociferously before and after and the Officers joined us at a kind of collation [a light meal] at Col. Cross' afterwards.

We enjoyed it all exceedingly - chiefly because all newcomers connected with the Brigade were pleasant. They have never turned their backs in battle. The officers gave us the warmest of greetings, & seemed much gratified that the Gen'l had come over to see them. He mentioned in his speech the names of some of the noble dead. It was sad to see how reduced in numbers the Brigade had become. There are less now than there was in one Reg't (the 5th N.H.) A little more than a year ago. There were some lady spectators as well as Generals of other commands and their staffs.

No, Schurz's Div'n is not to be exchanged tho' the Pres. & Sec. of War did both consent to it when Otis asked them. But when he returned to the Corps he found that Schurz's did not want to go so he gave up the idea. Now I am very sorry it was not done because we find that Schurz has been working against Otis & trying his best to get Siegel back. He is causing Otis great anxiety both on acct. of his influence there in the command and also with the Pres.

He seems to have retained his politician's character notwithstanding the high hopes I first had of him and his great pretensions of friendship to the General.

This is a matter you must not talk of out of the family.

He did nothing in the battle & yet I surmise that he has been criticizing the General's dispositions &c. to the Pres. & Siegel.

We (11th Corps) are building permanent fortifications. One will be named for Capt. Dessauer (aide de camp). If you ever write this be sure and make the name plain for it was given Dessous in the Press before in my acct of the battle. Other forts will be named for Colonels killed in the last battle.



Give my love to Lizzie & Hattie <Potter> if you see them again - to Miss Frost & family & accept any amount to yourself.

From your Aff. bro  
C.H. Howard

P.S. How does the Prophecy come on? Maj. W's resignation not yet accepted. Otis not very well today - Diarrhea. I am well.

P.S. Please send this to mother if convenient. C.H.H.

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6/6/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-104

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brook's Station,  
Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Near Brooke's Station, Va.,  
June 6th, 1863

My dear Mother,

Otis & I both received letters from you yesterday. It seemed good to see a long letter in your familiar hand - writing again. We were also gratified at your peaceful and cheerful frame of mind. It was particularly cheering as we or particularly Otis has had a great deal of vexation and anxiety of late. I think it has mostly passed away now. It is about the Germans and Gen. Schurz. The Germans in New York had a meeting in which they passed resolutions reflecting somewhat upon the present commander of the 11th Corps and intimated that it would have done better under Siegel.

I have no doubt it will all result rightly.

It is a beautiful day & we have moved our Hd qrs. <moved> June 4th. Last evening had the Band here & two ladies Mrs Barlow (wife of Gen. B.) And Mrs. Parker (wife of Lt. Parker of the Regular army). It was the wedding anniversary for Mrs. Parker. We have now a charming spot for Hd. qrs. Our tents are arranged in a semi-circle and are all pitched in the shade of trees which we have an opening in front grassy & level. It was the site of a house formerly but is now in the midst of the woods.

Yesterday evening about 5 o'clock we began to hear rapid artillery firing near Fredericksburg. Otis had been to Gen. Hooker's in the forenoon and knew that it was the First Corps attempting on making a show of crossing about 2 miles below F. We hear of no casualties & probably Gen. Hooker made all the demonstration that he intends at that point. It is I suppose to learn the whereabouts of the enemy and preventing them from sending any troops West.

There is another expedition on foot up river which is a secret here. We sent the 55th Mass. today up more than half way to the Orange & Alexa. R.R. to Spotted Tavern where it is to report to Gen. Ames who is one of our Brigadiers as I think I have written but was sent for at Hooker's Hd. qrs. this morning & is put in charge of some important movement on a comparatively small scale.

Otis has had Diarrhea, but was better yesterday & is quite smart today. I am well. Sorry you got an impression that I was not well from the long interval in writing. I think you will have rec'd some letters before this.

Capt Stinson goes with the Regt this P.M. to Spotted Tavern. I have an easy life now in Camp. Have been studying French somewhat. Have enough to do to keep my horses & myself in sufficient exercise. We have been a little on the alert of late & are now under marching orders - i.e. to be ready to move upon short notice. One Corps (5th) is already up river - part at Kelly's Ford where we crossed first in the last campaign.

We have such a lovely camp here now I fear we will move very soon. I say fear & yet I am ready at any time. Captain Griffiths A.D.C. [Aide de Camp] of the staff has been intending to bring his wife down but this order will prevent for the present. He has a log house with canvass roof attached to his tent.

Mrs Gen'l Schurz, Mrs. Gen. Steinweher & many other ladies are visiting their husbands. The firing last night frightened some of them so much that they decided to start for home today. We had a pleasant evening. The ladies I mentioned are quite interesting and you know almost any lady-like ladies are interesting to officers who have been so long beyond the pale of civilized society. Mrs. Perry Lee is still at Hd. Qrs. 3d Corps. Sickles is absent on Leave & Perry is still serving on the staff. His resignation was refused unless he could get higher rank in the Navy & this he is now trying for. I was glad to hear from Mr Chapin. Poor Adna. He has had a strange lot in this life. I am glad Roland is going to build a new

house.

Give my love to him & Cynthia & their little ones. Is father – How is his hand?

I saw Thomas <Bures> the other day over near the 2nd Corps Hospital sitting upon the ground with his brother in law, Tho's Rose. They knew me & I had quite a talk with them. Had not seen Thomas before since his return. He is now Company Cook & had come over to see Tho's Rose who is sick in Hospital or rather convalescent. His back is not strong & he (Rose) expects a discharge.

With great affection Yr. aff. son.

C. H. Howard

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6/15/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-105

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Centerville, Va

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Centerville, Va  
June 15 1863

My dear Mother,

I received your letter mailed June 9th this afternoon. Perhaps you will have learned by telegraph before this reaches you of the movements of Hooker's army. But nothing has appeared in the papers yet. Yesterday (Sunday) we marched 18 or 19 miles. From Catlett's Station to this place. The day before we marched from near Hartwood Church and struck the R.R. at Catlett's - a distance of 19 miles. We left our old Camp near Brooke's Station on Friday the 12th inst. We had just got fixed up in elegant style in our new camp. Hd. qrs. being in the woods upon a lovely spot as Mrs. Lee will assure you if you see her for she visited us there and spent one night. The 3d Corps (in which is Perry) had moved the day before and the 1st marched same day with us taking another route - both these Corps striking the Orange & Alexa R.R. at Bealton, 10 miles nearer the Rappahannock than we. The 5th had been up river for some time & yesterday it started on the march in this direction. I hear also that the 2nd & 6th which were on our front at Falmouth started yesterday. We communicated with Gen. Hooker at Dumfries yesterday (by telegraph via Washington) and his Hd. qrs. are to be at Fairfax Court House tonight.

We (the Genl & staff) arrived here about 4 P.M. yesterday. Gen. Abercrombie who is in command here (having our Brigade here, one at Chantilly (25th & 27th Maine) and a third at Union Mills) was completely surprised not being aware of any movement of our army.

It seems that Lee (Rebel) has moved the most of his army up the Rappahannock and as nearly as we can ascertain over into Shenandoah Valley. There is some chance of his attempting to come through Thoroughfare Gap which is in sight about 15 miles from here & which we now watch with great interest.

There is a Brigade of our Cavalry & a horse battery at the Gap who could give alarm in due time & perhaps hinder the enemy there for some time. We had some expectation of being sent to Aldie which is the next gap in the mountains above Thoroughfare where the enemy can come through. Otis had a squadron of Cavalry sent there at 12 last night. It is 20 miles distant.

But we do not learn positively that Lee has come into the Valley & he may be intending to reinforce Bragg against Rosecrans in the West.

Here we are back to the point from which we started on the morning after the first Battle we were in nearly two years ago. We have Hd. qrs. in a house - union people. The woman very ladylike & kind.

It is intensely hot today & we are very glad we do not have to be on the march. Yesterday was not so hot.

Gen. Ames has rejoined us after accompanying the Cavalry dash across the Rappahannock. Capt. Stinson went with him & all came back safe except three of our Regt (33d Mass) wounded. Our movements depend entirely upon the enemy so I cannot tell how long we will remain here or when we will go. The 1st Corps arrived today & Gen. Reynolds is now down stairs in the Parlor talking with Otis. He (Gen. R.) Has had command of the Right Wing of the army which it has been so far separated. I suppose our base is changed again & again has been or will be given up.

Rowland was expected to start today to visit us. Perhaps he will hear of the movement & not come. Otis thought I better not telegraph for Rowland would enjoy coming to see us wherever we might be. I doubt if I have any money to send this month. I paid for my horse - also half for an oil painting we presented to Mrs. Lee & to some other large extras which consumes my pay. There is a good breeze so in the house we are quite comfortable. I think I shall take to write in Blue pen today. Do you see Isabelle? I hope Clark will apply for a commission in the Invalid Corps. If he would like I can get a recommendation for him from Otis if he would like. How is his foot? We could hardly keep in mind that yesterday was Sabbath Day - being on the march.

Write often to your affectionate Son.  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Maj. Whittlesey left for home the day before the move. His resignation accepted. We miss him much.

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6/19/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-107

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Camp at Goose Creek  
Va

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Camp at Goose Creek Va  
June 19 1863

My dear Mother,

We marched from Centerville to this place (16 miles) on Weds. Our Cavalry went forward to Leesburg (about 6 miles) yesterday and drove out twenty of Rebel Cavalry. We lay down all day yesterday. Hooker is waiting to find out where the enemy is & what he is going to do. So all the Corps were halted - the 12th at Dranesville, Reynolds (1st) at Guilford Station, we at <Trap> Rock on Goose Creek, 5th (Meade) at Gum Spring. We heard firing yesterday & have since learned that Pleasanton (with Cavalry) met the enemy's Cavalry at Aldie successfully but Col. Doughty was killed of 1st Maine Cavalry. I rode 20 miles yesterday to see Gen. Reynolds. It was very hot.

The day before I rode 10 in middle of the day (besides the 16 miles march) in order to arrest a suspected citizen who had been in the Rebel service. I took a few Cavalry. His wife & daughters besought me to treat him well and let him come back speedily. He was sent back on making promise not to leave home. He left the Rebel service a year ago.

The guerillas are all about. Our stragglers have been picked up by them & yesterday one of the <> was fired at. We had a nice rain in the night. I wonder if Rowland is at Washington. We get no regular mail tho' I was happy to get a letter from you while at Centerville. George Bates looked well. Was not in any hot fighting at Chancellorsville. Spoke with a great deal of feeling of his Aunt Jane's death.

There seems to be a great scare in Penna. It will do good perhaps. It amuses us when we learn there is so small a force across the river.

Hope will be able to see Rowland.

In <haste> but very Affectionately yr. Son.  
C. H. Howard

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7/9/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-108

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]  
Army of the Potomac [letterhead]  
July 9th, 1863.

My dear Mother,

One of our Divn. reached Middletown - back again night before last. And we returned to our old Hd. qrs. at a house <[torn]> this side of the town where we <[torn]> were treated very well when on our <[torn]> up. We came over the mountain at High Knob. The 5th Corps also under Otis' command for the time came the same way. The Divn. which got to town that night had marched about 30 miles in one day. Some of our artillery got stuck in attempting to get up the mountain & as our troops could not get past, the rest remained there. At half past 3 next morning I went back to get up the artillery & trains & clear the way for the 5th Corps. Had to work very hard & finally found another road for the 5th - at same time got the artillery & all the trains in motion. This took me till 12 ½ m. I tell you this to show something of my occupation. I got not a <morsel> break till that time. Yesterday P.M. we marched to Boonesboro Gap where we now are on the west side of the mountain in sight of the Antietam battlefield. One Divn. at Boonsboro which went forward to support Buford's Cavalry which had been fighting all day. After us the 1st Corps came up on our right and this morning the 6th which saw less fighting of lately strong has passed on to Boonsboro.

The enemy are all on this side of the Potomac and before this reaches you we shall have seen another terrific battle. But we have been gaining such decided successes of late I feel in hopes the time of the Lord has assured when he is to deliver the enemy into our hands and bring this great war to an end. I pray this may be <soon> and that your sons may not flinch from any duty which may tend to bring this about.

Nearly half of the Corps were rather barefooted or suffering from poor shoes yesterday but in the night one of the staff went to Frederick & procured the needed shoes - also food for these days - tho' many had fasted one day.

We are now making war in right good earnest I assure you & I trust this <hour> that the Lord will bless. Otis seems remarkably well. Rowland will soon be on his way home and you must go right up to Farmington & seem him if he cannot stop as I suppose he cannot well do, he has been absent so long. Hope father will see him too, he can tell for all <[torn]> about us, about the army and how we live & march & fight & all about our daily matters. We are now in a brick house right in the mountains near the broad national road which runs from Frederic to Indianapolis in the far West & is called a Pike. We miss poor Griffiths who was wounded & is at Gettysburg. His wife is with him by this time. My love to father, to Roland & Cynthia, Warren & Louise & family. I saw the other day the young Mr. <Thorver> who came to see me at Leeds & enlisted in 16th Me. He was well.

I suppose Mr. Gilberts' folks have but just learned the fate of Capt. Keene. He was a noble brave young man. I wish our country had more such. I trust you never allow yourself to get over anxious, dear Mother. The Lord is gracious & we are in his hands whether we live or die. Won't it be glorious if we bring our God to the wicked rebellious <[torn]> battle. <[torn]> baptism <[torn]> is over.

Forever yr. loving Son,  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Otis said give Mother my love and tell her I am very well - little tired. He is lying upon his cot near me taking rest. Cavalry is passing & has been for an hour. Love to Dellie. I have had a letter from Maj. Whittlesey. He would like to come back. It is reported that Joseph <Locust> was killed - he is at least missing. I saw the Adjutant of 16th Maine.

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7/20/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-109

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac.  
Mountville, Loudon Co.  
Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Army of the Potomac. [Letterhead]  
Mountville, Loudon Co. Va. July 20th 1863.  
[Somebody wrote in ] (Gettysburg)

My dear Mother,

I had hoped to have time to write you a good long letter today as we were not to march. We arrived at this beautiful place in Loudon Valley yesterday P.M. Some roving Rebel Cavalry had been here in the morning and two officers of the 11st Corps staff were captured while ahead of their Command selecting camping ground. Hd. qrs. are at Union. Our orders last evening were that we remain at rest today. This is very refreshing.

We are at a pleasant house Mr Mounts'. They are all Rebels in sentiment but treat us kindly enough. The young lady, who is quite pretty, is as decided and outspoken a Rebel as I have ever seen. They claim Gettysburg as a Rebel victory! We don't see it in that light. A few more such Rebel victories is all that we need to end the war.

Otis rode to Hd. qrs. this forenoon leaving me at home to write letters. But I had to visit the Picket-line on duty only it has consumed the whole day. Gen. Schurz was charged upon by three Rebel Cavalry this morning but as he had five orderlies with him it was rather risk business as father would say and one of them (the Rebels) got caught by the <guards> and was sent a prisoner to Hd. qrs. The other two escaped as it were "by the skin of their teeth". Next time they will know better than to attempt to capture nearly twice their number. Two of our Cavalry were taken last evening, having been sent out to a house to borrow some augurs & other tools for bridge-building. They learned that twenty five Rebel Cavalry lay close by the road in some woods when Otis & staff passed by yesterday, but they were not strong enough and so did not dare to expose themselves by firing or attempting a capture.

So you see we are getting into the enemy's country again. These things do not distrust but are matters of interest & offered matter of talk. Another peculiarity of yesterday & today is that our soldiers have begun with unwanted vigor to rob, steal, kill and devour everything convertible into food - worse, they are taking horses by the half dozen. This troubles Otis a good deal and he is taking severe measures to prevent it - more for the preservation of proper discipline in his own command than for any other reason.

We rec'd a letter from Rowland at Philada. & presumed he has reached home before this. Today we rec'd a letter from Capt. Griffeth's brother in which he enclosed an excellent likeness of Rowland taken at Philada. I send Dellie three papers containing accts of the battle of Gettysburg. Hope you will read the one in the Cincinnati paper as it tells a good deal about Otis & our Corps. We have received a large reinforcement - in fact an entire divn with its excellent commander Gen. Gordon of Massachusetts. One Mass. & 5 N.Y. Regts & two Penna. The Col of one of the latter was formerly, Adj. of the 61st N.Y. (my Regt.)

Some think we will not have any more battles till after the drafted men reach us. We shall then be a powerful army.

How seldom I get a letter from you. But Dellie is good about writing & I have a letter of his to answer now I think. Hope he will not let a week pass without writing. Much love to father & Dellie, also to Roland & family. Do you attend any prayer meetings this Summer? Hope you will see Rowland who will tell you more than I can communicate in many letters.

With great love & daily prayers for you mother. I remain affectionately your son.





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7/29/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-110c

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Warrenton Junction, Va.

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[This is a handwritten copy, but apparently written by a different person. It is almost the same, although a few words are different. Where there is a difference the original text is noted in {}.]

Hdqrs. {Hd. qrs.} 11th Corps  
Warrenton Junction, Va.  
July 29 1863.

My dear Mother,

If we could have known that the Army would lie still so long we might have been home by this time. Yet we may move before another four days or even another two days expire. I got letters from Dellie & Rowland each telling about the Draft. Hope you will find it convenient to go up and visit Rowland. He can tell you a great deal about our daily life which was thrilling {striking} to him and he would remember but which does not come to my mind in writing. It has continued very warm but last night we had a shower which cooled off the air a little.

I am going to ride to Hdqrs. with Otis this morning - to Warrenton 9 miles or more.

I answer to a letter he had written Otis received one from the President in which he expressed great regret that Lee was allowed to escape but on the whole said he had determined to be grateful for what had been done & not complain about what had not been accomplished. He spoke in light {high} terms of General Meade - Otis had written of his own accord in commendations of Gen. Meade for fear he (Meade) might be removed or his resignation accepted as he (Meade) requested after Lee's escape. (Halleck had sent some complaining messages.) Otis thinks no better man for the place can be found at present.

I hope your health is very good. What are the privileges of Church and Sabbath School this summer?

Anyone from the Center neighborhood drafted? Hope Oscar will come out as an officer in one of the 3 veteran Regiments. Will both of Ezekiel Bates' boys go or will they pay over.

I would advise all to go who have not family responsibilities to prevent. The Rebellion is getting rather shaky about the foundations. It grows smaller and weaker. This Army is powerful and will soon be tremendous if the Conscrips are put into it as is expected. In fact officers have gone for them from every Regiment.

We rubbed hard against the flank and rear of Lee's army as they were just finishing their march past Manassas Gap. Grant now starts for Mobile I suppose and Rosecrans for Chattanooga & Atlanta where he breaks the Great Western Thoroughfare - I mean the R.R.

If the Lord continues to bless all will be well. Sorry we failed to {so signally} at Ft. Wagner near Charleston S.C. Now is a time for prayers as always also a time for renewed and earnest efforts - of course I would like to see home & mother but I am content to stay if anything {any thing} is to be done to finish this war in the right way.

Your Affectionate Son,  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I sent a letter yesterday to Dellie.

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7/29/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-110

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Warrenton Junction, Va

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Warrenton Junction, Va.  
July 29 1863.

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Your Affectionate Son,  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I sent a letter yesterday to Dellie.

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9/2/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-111

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Potomac  
Catlett's Station, Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps, [Letterhead]  
Army of the Potomac. [Letterhead]  
September 2nd 1863

My dear Mother,

The day I wrote you from Washington (last Saturday) at half past seven in the evening we reached Cattlett's Station. Found Hd. qrs. here at Mr. Cattlett's about a mile from the station where we left then when we went away. We had a warm reception from the staff, all of whom met us at the cars. The "Body-Guard" or Cavalry escort saluted as usual and then gave three hearty cheers for Gen. Howard. The house here was illuminated from top to bottom. The weather is comfortably cool now. We escaped much of the hottest weather of the season by being at home when we were. You will be thankful for this for us.

Today we rode to Hd. qrs. Found General Meade specially cordial and pleasant. He only did not like it in the Sec'y of War that he extended Otis' leave without consulting him, his immediate Commander. And he was right. But he finds no fault with Otis.

I found my horses all looking well after their long rest. Yesterday Otis reviewed one of the Brigades and today another. He has just returned from the Review. I have been at home as my presence was not required, and have been listening to music both from Piano and Melodeon by a Capt. of General Schurz' staff. Monday Otis with much assistance from me and an occasional help of memory or other suggestion, made out his report of the battle of Gettysburg. I was writing from early in the morning until late in the evening, but finished it all up in one day - 37 pages on paper like this. I am writing in my tent which is shared by Capt. Stinson who is now sitting upon my cot. Our tent is just in rear of the house - north - under the shade of Locust trees. Little Lottie Cattlett is just in here - a little girl of 5 or 6 - prattling and playing. She is quite a roguish little piece.

There is no prospect of immediate activity in this Army though Kilpatrick has been sent down below Falmouth to capture some Rebel Infantry & Cavalry who have had the hardihood to cross to this side of the Rappahannock. He is to act in conjunction with Gun boats.

We find one of the two remaining Divn's of our Corps - partly well scattered - guarding the Rail Road and also a Conscript Camp at Alexandria.

Did you get my letter containing the money? Has Lizzie made you her visit yet? If she is with you & the children, please give them a great deal of love. They contributed much to my happiness while at home. Is father's hand all well? How is Roland? I have felt better even than when at home, since my return - in excellent health. How much I have to be thankful for. Otis wrote to Lizzie directing to Leeds & inclosing a draft. Please tell Gracie that Lottie Catlett has named her new Doll (which she received the day after we started for home) "Gracie Howard". I heard her tell some one the name this evening. Paper full. Good Bye. Do you hear from Dellie?

Your Affectionate Son,  
C. H. Howard

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9/4/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-112

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps, [Letterhead]  
September 4th, 1863

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I hardly know where a letter will reach you now, but lest you should be able to say the same of me I will write.

We arrived at Washington Saturday morning Aug 29th. Got our pay for Aug there and sent home the portion so set apart. Bought some little conveniences for Camp life. And Capt. Stinson and I sat for some photographs. We have rec'd them and think mine the best I have ever had tho' nothing extra.

The General saw the Sec'y of War who said he need not have come back. He did not like Gen. William's Dispatch. Wanted the Gen'l to remain in Me. Till after election. Otis did not wish to go back and the President whom he also called to see agreed with him that it was better to return to the Field. Gen. Halleck was particularly cordial as he has been of late. Ditto Gen. Meade when we came to go to Hd. Qrs. A day or two after our return.

The Gen'l has made out the report of the Battle of Gettysburg since we came back. I was his Amanuensis.

A pamphlet has been published on the battle of Chancellorsville - meant to be in justification of the 11th Corps. At the expense of its Commanding Officer. It consists chiefly of certain speeches made of a German Meeting in N.Y. and translated into English. It contains many downright falsehoods and is full of misrepresentations of facts. There has also an article appeared in [George] Wilkes' Spirit of the Times (No. for Aug. 29th I think) in which both Otis and his staff are shamelessly slandered. Very bitter against the A. A. G. and Asst. Inspector Genl.

I think of writing an acct. of the battle of Chancellorsville and sending it to J. L. C. Abbott so that he may have some reliable material for writing the history (if he has not already passed that point in his History of the Rebellion.)

I believe I will direct this to No. Easton tho' I hardly think you are there. You must write me minute accounts of every day of your visit in Massachusetts. Tell me how you were rec'd at Uncle Ames' [possibly Oakes Ames, the husband of John Gilmore's sister, Eveline Gilmore] &c.

I have thought some of the place of Paymaster's Clerk for you. If you knew any Paymaster whom you would like & who would be willing to take a new hand it would furnish you with employment with about \$75 per month pay. Maj. Robie has Frank Gilmore & you know Frank was an old accountant and handsome neat penman.

We are going to Bristoe Station to review some of our troops there.

Good Bye, Your Affeec. Brother,  
C.H. Howard  
Maj. & <>

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9/16/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-113

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Sept. 16 1863

My dear Mother,

I have just written a business letter to father and will fill a sheet for you to accompany it. The whole Army except this Corps moved today. This is contraband news but I can tell you with perfect impunity not only to myself and friends but also the interests of our Government and Country, which are scarcely less dear to me. Well, there, I will inform you (not to be put in print) that the Army is all over the Rappahannock except the remnant of this Corps, which is <remaining> & which is employed in guarding the "line of Communication" or in other words, the Orange & Alexa R.R. all the way to the Rappahannock. Of course the Command is very much distributed. One Brigade is down or up (as they say here) on the Rappahannock and Capt. Stinson is with it for the present. Hd. qrs. have not been moved as this is about as Central as any place. We feel somewhat insecure on acct of the long line subjected to the dangers of Raids. Of course we are spread out rather thin.

We have heard some firing today but do not know whether Gen. Meade intends to push on to attack or only hold a front upon the Rapidan River. He is hardly strong enough now to try Richmond in real earnest, unless he thinks he can get there before Lee could recall his absent forces. And in that case - could he hold what he had acquired? is the great question. So I think, notwithstanding this bold and threatening advance into the enemy's country and the skirmishing which has already occurred, that a great battle or a general attack by our Army is hardly probable.

You will feel a little more quietude about us in knowing that we have the somewhat inglorious but no less necessary duty of guarding the "line of communication."

I enclose a bit from yesterday's Washington Chronicle which you may have seen elsewhere. It is a beautiful evening just before Sunset. We have had a charming golden light which has imparted a rich glow to the whole landscape tonight and is occasioned partly by the clouds which are more numerous of late and have once or twice afforded us refreshing showers which have quelled th dust.

Hd. qrs. are pleasantly situated. It was very warm in the middle of the day but a cooling breeze sprung up this P.M.

Otis and I rode over this afternoon to see an officer [Undated Fragment: "found between 4-24-63 & 4-26-63 ca April 26, 1863"] a Lieutenant who was wounded by a ball thro' the fleshy part of the upper arm, day before yesterday just at night. He was fired upon by a guerrilla while doing his duty as Picket Officer. Otis had every male inhabitant (and one female) brought in for two miles around but though he got some suspicious parties among whom was the female I am sorry to say, a young lady who has several brothers in the Rebel service - yet we are unable to identify the man who evidently had murder in his heart. And all except three have been released. The young lady is retained and quartered in Mr. Catlett's house which is now about fifty yards from our Hd. Qrs. encampment. Her father a very gentlemanly old Virginian of some 70 years is also retained. This & other daughters of his are accused of feeding these Rebel guerillas who lurk about in the woods.

The wounded man is so as to walk about and is doing well. I suppose Dellie is at home by this time. We got news in today's paper that Maine had gone for the Union by 15,000 majority. This is as good or better than I hoped. I think Oliver must have voted all right. (You may tell him for me). Is Roland quite well? I rec'd a good letter from Rowland today. If my financial affairs are too much of a trouble to father I will try and relieve him and write directly to Mr. Libbey or some one else - but of course I would prefer father should attend to them if he likes to and is not inconvenienced too much thereby.

Hope you will tell Dexter Howard's mother about my seeing him so well and seemingly happy. Got his hands full of Conscripts. I spoke to Col. Lakeman about Dexter's promotion. He seemed favorable to it & said he (Dexter) would come next to the orderly Sergt. Whom Dexter himself is unwilling to supercede as he told me. The Col. Objected to putting Dexter in any other Company as it would interfere with the promotions of others who are deserving of it. Otis also spoke to the Governor for Dexter, asking him to

promote him if possible.

Mrs Catlett and a young lady cousin just came down & sat in my tent a little while. They had never visited me here before. I went with them to see the Telegraphic Instrument which is a curiosity to them. My paper is consumed.

With great love  
Yr. Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Love to dear little Gracie. If her father knew I were writing he would send love to both you and her.

P.S. 2nd Can you find a plan of the Battlefield of Chancellorsville which I think was lost out of my valise while I was at home?

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10/4/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-298

Richmond, Indiana

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Richmond, Indiana

Oct. 4 1863

My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore],

Here I am most unexpectedly making a visit at Uncle Henry Strickland's [the husband of Eliza Otis Gilmore's sister, Mary Jane Otis]. I am writing in Fred's office having come over from the house to see his shop (a Barrel mow factory) for the first time this morning. Yesterday morning soon after daylight I reached Richmond coming back from Indianapolis with Uncle Henry.

After writing you at Bellaire Ohio, that night about 11 o'clock our train started on its way to Indianapolis, Indiana, via Columbus & Dayton, Ohio, & via Richmond, Ind (this place). From Columbus I telegraphed Uncle Henry to meet us at Dayton so we could at least see him as we traveled on the cars. We still had a passenger car all to ourselves though this time not a sleeping car. We reached Dayton at about 8 in the evening but could not find Uncle Henry. We were serenaded there (in the city which Valondingham calls home) by Union songs from the young ladies and all the boys were hurraing for Brough (pronounced "Bruff") who is the Republican Candidate for Governor in opposition to Valondingham.

At a town where the train paused a few moments - say half an hour - just before sunset, Xenia Ohio, we had a perfect ovation. Ladies, Gentlemen & Children thronged the train its whole length of some 30 cars and loaded down the soldiers with all kinds of eatables. When they found Gen. Howard was on board the Ladies all came along in succession to shake hands with him as he stood on the platform of the rear car. They heaped upon us their gifts of pies, cakes, Bread & butter, sandwiches, apples, peaches and most abundantly grapes.

A dozen or so of the little girls brought paper for the General to write his name upon - which he did for as many as he could until the cars left.

It was past 9 p.m. before we left Dayton and soon after Otis & all the rest made up their couches & lay down for sleep, excepting me. I kept awake in order to see Uncle Henry or hear from him at Richmond. When we got near I awakened Otis & for a short distance we stood on the platform & viewed the country by the moon light. Soon after the train stopped, it being then past midnight, Uncle Henry & Fred came along to our car enquiring for Gen. Howard. Then Uncle Henry urged Otis to stay over & go to Indianapolis the next day in passenger train saying he would accompany him. Otis decided to stay and at first I hoped to remain too but Otis was fearful that everything would not work well at Indianapolis where all the freight horses &c had to be changed especially as our train had to be divided on account of being too heavy and thereby four cars of horses were separated from the rest for a time - and so he thought I better go on.

Soon after one A.M. we were on our way & I had a good sleep till we drew near Indianapolis

I will not attempt a minute description of that days work. I had the superintendence of every thing. We had above a hundred & fifty men. Otis did not get along so soon as he expected and I sent off our train as soon as it was reloaded reserving the remainder of the horses to be reunited with those which had been detached also reserving a car of grooms with forage. The horses came & with them I combined a battery of artillery & made up another train to which I attached a passenger car & expected Otis would go with me, Capt. Stinson & one other officer in that. The rest of the staff went on with the first train. But Uncle Henry came with Otis & several gentlemen he met urging him to remain over until evening, he decided to do so. So the second train went on in charge of the Battery Officer and we all returned to the Bates Hotel where we had also got our Breakfast.

I found there that Uncle Henry had proposed to Otis to leave me behind for a week or more if he cold. Aunt Martha was not at home & so had not seen Otis. She had gone to Cincinnati with Lizzie not to return till next Saturday. After considerable debating of the matter in his own mind Otis decided for me to stay. He with Capt. Stinson & Capt. Powers had a car & left about 8 P.M. He saw Governor Morton of this state before leaving. I am to remain till next Monday. Uncle Henry & I could not return by the most direct Rail Road the regular trains being all conscripted now by this transporting of troops. So we took



another R.R. by which we rode till about midnight - it being the 5th night I had spent on the cars. We then stopped at a R.R. junction at Anderson till 3 ½ in the morning during which time I got some good sleep, having an excellent bed on the floor. It was rainy when we got up and started for Richmond. We found Carrie & little Annie well. The last is a very bright, active little girl.

Yesterday I visited Uncle Henry's mill, riding down about a mile. They have a good house & very neat garden and front-yard - a fine home. Carrie plays somewhat. I may write again from here.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Please tell father that they have started one of those national banks here & although there is a much greater call for the stock than can be met yet Uncle Henry thinks he could get some for me. He owns \$5,000 of it. The Interest here will be about 10 per cent. The U.S. 5-20 bonds (which they purchased) pay their regular 6 per ct. at avg rate. I want father to write me a letter telling me all about my stock & money. How much is due on his note and all, that I may have it on paper & not forget how my business stands. C.H.H.

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10/7/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-115

Nashville, Tenn

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[This is a copy of a letter written in a different hand than CH Howard CHH-114.]

Nashville, Tenn, Oct 7, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived here last night. Found Col. Asmussen, Balloch and some other of the staff, but the rest went through to Bridgeport (120 miles) with the General and the troops last week. Otis left here last Friday evening.

On Monday last a Rebel force of Cavalry destroyed one and perhaps more bridges just below Murfreesboro and hence cutting off Rail Road Communication between this and Bridgeport. The Telegraph is also broken and we cannot consult with or get orders from the General. He has forage & rations enough but all the artillery horses are yet here having reached this city from the East and North only last night.

I must wait here till the bridges & R.R. are repaired. Our artillery horses may perhaps be sent by marching but they must rest a few days from their terrible journey of a week upon the cars from which they are much weakened. Fortunately our own staff horses went on from here before the General and are now safe and for use at Bridgeport.

This latter place, which you have probably never heard of before as none of us had, is at the point where the Nashville Rail Road first strikes the Tennessee River. It did have a R.R. bridge then and thence the Rail Road ran along on the South side of the Tennessee River to Chatanooga, a distance of only 30 miles by the River. But Gen. Rosecrans has never repaired nor used the R.R. beyond Bridgeport and since his last great battle the enemy have come in and taken possession of that portion of the country on the South side of the Tennessee from Bridgeport to Lookout Mountain. Rosecrans' right rests upon this range of mountains which runs perpendicular to the River. He gets his supplies by going a round about way among the mountain ranges and through passes on the North of the Tennessee.

I am looking for a letter from father. I think the best investment I could make would be in one of those U.S. banks and Uncle Henry [Strickland] can get me \$1,000 at par although there is a great demand for the stock. It will pay 10 per cent.

How is your health, Mother? You will have to write pretty often now in order to make up for the long times letters take in coming. From Aunt Martha's [Martha Otis Strickland is Eliza Otis Gilmore's sister] to here takes about the same time as from home to Washington.

Love to all. Your affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

---

10/7/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-114

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Assistant Inspector  
General's Office  
Nashville, Tenn

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[This is the original in pen to 115.]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]  
Assistant Inspector General's Office [letterhead]

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Love to all. Your affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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10/11/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-116c

Headquarters 11th  
Corps  
Bridgeport, Alabama

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[This is a copy of a letter written in a different hand than CH Howard. Where there is a difference with the original, the original word is enclosed in {}]

Headquarters {Hd. Qrs.} 11th Corps  
Bridgeport, Alabama  
Oct 11th, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived at this place at 2 o'clock this morning having started from Nashville at ten a.m. of Friday. The bridges burned by the Rebel Raiders were all rebuilt so as to allow of our passage that day and before dark we had got beyond the break - but the grades on the Nashville and Chattanooga R.R. are abrupt and as we had a heavy train we progressed slowly and finally got stuck on a heavy up-grade between Wartrace and Tullahoma. After several hours delay we were boosted on by another engine and stopped for breakfast at Déchert. The conductor was hungry as well as the rest and so as accommodatingly as carelessly waited till a Breakfast was cooked at a forlorn shanty of a house. At Cowan, 4 miles below, we learned by telegraph that the Rebels had been there in the night and done damage to the R.R. in the tunnel near that place. Perhaps the conductor was more willing to delay owing to this report, owing to a similar report received the evening before we had brought troops of the 12th Corps from Wartrace to reinforce the R.R. guards etc. General {Gen'l} Butterfield (Hooker's chief of staff) was on a train just in rear.

After a decent Breakfast at 50 cts (which seemed reasonable in comparison with other meals for which I had paid \$.75 and with the exorbitancy in Nashville{}) we went on to Cowan. Found that the guards (not from the 11th or 12th Corps) had run away and the Rebels had thrown rocks, stones, dirt and timber down through two apertures or shafts (as I think they are called) running from above perpendicularly down into the Tunnel and through which the stones, etc. were taken up in the construction of the Tunnel. This Tunnel was 2 ½ miles from Cowan and when they took one engine and platform car and went forward into the Tunnel to clear it out I got on board the engine and so went along. I cannot describe minutely, here, the Tunnel and all I did and saw. It was 3000 ft long and wrought through solid limestone. The light reflected from the ground or rocks and travelling so far through the darkness became precisely of the same quality and appearance as moonlight. The sound from the engines and pieces of rock etc. falling upon the Car, were almost deafening. I was surprised {surprized} to find at the other end of the Tunnel a train of cars with a thousand men from the 11th Corps and with them two of our staff. Capt. Stinson was greatly astonished, when, after clambering over the length of the train along the tops of the cars I found him on the one next to the rear and seized him by the hand as he stood in the darkness on a platform car. That was after the train had moved up into the Tunnel in an attempt to get through when we supposed we had got the way clear. These troops had come up to meet the Rebels but they (the Rebels) had escaped before they arrived. It was several hours before we got off from Cowan to which place we returned after the way was cleared; Capt. S. accompanying me.

We got very hungry and paid a woman 50 cts apiece for a cup of very cloudy Tea and two slices of hard bread - alias "hard tack" - "pilot bread" - "soldiers hard crackers" etc. The scenery was wild and rugged - some of it pleasing. After passing through the Tunnel & after we began to descend this side of the mountains - it was similar to that which we saw in crossing the Alleghenies on the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. - we were only about 20 miles from Stevenson when at the Tunnel. Stevenson is the great Depot for Rosecrans Army. The junction of the Nashville & Chattanooga & Memphis & Charleston R.R. - and Gen. Hooker's Hdqrs.

It was dark before we got there and 9 or 10 o'clock before we got a train "made up" to come down to Bridgeport as now it is a kind of branch R.R. The main business terminating, of course, at the grand depot for the Army and Stevenson is chosen in preference to Bridgeport altho' the latter is somewhat nearer Chattanooga because from Stevenson there is a better road across the mountains to Chattanooga. I found it very cold in the cars and of course I was a little hungry - though I did not mind that ,but it was

very vexatious to be from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m. in going only 10 miles. The train got stuck on the road & leaning the rearmost half in which I happened to be - come through - returning for us afterwards.

Otis had a light burning in his tent & hearing me come up called for me saying "come in Charlie". I found he had a fire place & a good fire & so I was glad enough to come in. Gave him his letter from Lizzie - talked a long time till I got thoroughly warm then came into my own tent where I now am. Found my bed all made - my fur robe not at all inappropriate and even my double white blanket not altogether useless, but I assure you I slept soundly from the time I was warmly ensconced until day light. Capt. Stinson came about 6 a.m. having remained behind with the troops. Otis seemed very cheerful but has a bad cold as also has pretty much every one here. Mine is about well. The scenery here is fine - much of it approaching to the truly picturesque - and as we look from the fortified summit where Hdqrs. are located forth upon the deep flowing Tennessee showing itself at intervals among the forests and hills, with the imposing background of a mountain-range occasionally broken but mended by one still higher beyond and forming around us at a distance of from 2 to 3 miles an immense amphitheatre - such a view makes in some of us emotions of the Grand - and some of the more excitable (like your humble servant e.g.) may perhaps have been heard to exclaim in an enthusiastic undertone - "Grand".

Today is warm so that I am inclined to disrobe myself of the third woolen shirt which I have worn of late as my coat is not very thick and it became necessary for comfort to preserve all the caloric I could.

It is now near sunset. We occupy a Rebel fort. Have the Tennessee river between us and the enemy. In fact only a few Rebel Scouts show themselves and that usually upon some distant ridge or mountain. There is quite an extensive island in the river opposite here. Since I began this I have taken a little walk with Otis and he invited the chaplain of 134th N.J. to come up and make a prayer. So the detachments were drawn up at 5 p.m. and we had a brief religious service.

This must be a healthy locality - my first visit to the State of Alabama. Our mails will be irregular - I expect a letter from you & from father too & of course from Dellie to such {each} of whom & yourself much love, in which Otis joins me.

Your affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

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10/11/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-116

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Bridgeport, Alabama

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[This is the original.]

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Bridgeport, Alabama  
Oct. 11th, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived at this place at 2 o'clock this morning having started from Nashville at ten a.m. of Friday. The bridges burned by the Rebel Raiders were all rebuilt so as to allow of our passage that day and before dark we had got beyond the break - but the grades on the Nashville and Chatanooga R.R. are abrupt and as we had a heavy train we progressed slowly and finally got stuck on a heavy up-grade between Wartrace and Tullahoma. After several hours delay we were boosted on by another engine and stopped for breakfast at Déchert. The Conductor was hungry as well as the rest and so as accommodatingly as carelessly waited till a Breakfast was cooked at a forlorn shanty of a house. At Cowan, 4 miles below, we learned by telegraph that the Rebels had been there in the night and done damage to the R.R. in the tunnel near that place. Perhaps the conductor was more willing to delay owing to this report, owing to a similar report received the evening before we had brought troops of the 12th Corps from Wartrace to reinforce the R.R. guards etc. General Butterfield (Hooker's chief of staff) was on a train just in rear.

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It is now near sun-set. We occupy a Rebel fort. Have the Tennessee river between us and the enemy. In fact only a few Rebel Scouts show themselves and that usually upon some distant ridge or mountain. There is quite an extensive island in the river opposite here. Since I began this I have taken a little walk with Otis and he invited the chaplain of 134th N.Y. to come up and make a prayer. So the detachments were drawn up at 5 P.M. and we had a brief religious service.

This must be a healthy locality - my first visit to the State of Alabama. Our mails will be irregular - I expect a letter from you & from father too & of course from Dellie to each of whom & yourself much love, in which Otis joins me.

Your affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard

10/14/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-117

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Bridgeport Ala

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Bridgeport Ala.  
Oct. 14, 1863

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I believe I have not answered directly your letter to me written Sept. 20 and received at Nashville just before I came down here. It is raining this morning and has been pretty nearly since yesterday morning. I am now waiting for Breakfast.

We have one of the Soldier's California Fire-places and my colored man "Nash" came in and kindled a fire before I got up. So you see I am living quite luxuriously. The fire-place is Constructed by sinking a trench about a foot wide & deep and extending outside the tent. This is walled up with flat stones and in ours is covered inside the tent with a flat piece of cast-iron which our "Pioneers" had found somewhere and appropriated. Outside, and usually the whole length it is covered with flat stones - and at a distance of two or three feet from the tent a chimney of flat stones and mud rises to a height about equal to the top of the tent. In the scarcity of stones the chimney is heightened by the use of boards. The inner end of the Trench is left uncovered for a foot or little more and here is where the fire is kindled. Of course two of us have little room to spare in one of these "7 by 9" tents, so our table with writing desk is set over the fireplace and as I sit and write it is very convenient to warm my feet. In fact I am compelled to warm them whether they are cold or not. For our table we have four stakes driven firmly into the ground and the table made of two boards fastened together is laid upon the tops of these. Our little Pine desk which is loaded down like all desks serves to keep the table in place. Since I arrived we have had a floor made to our tent. It was well that it was completed before the rain - the fireplace ditto.

We are located upon a hill and in the enclosure of a Rebel Fort.

We have reason to be thankful that the Enemy did so much digging for our profit - yet we would have been better pleased had they not so unwisely left their rear entirely unprotected. For since it now becomes our front we must needs go to work fortifying. By getting outside of this Earth-work, however, as we could easily do and the same of our troops - we would be partly well sheltered from any shelling they could bring to bear. We are at work fortifying to cover our Pontoon-bridge, which is across the Tennessee at this place. There are two of them since we cross upon an island. This is a place somewhat similar to Harper's Ferry for natural scenery and in this respect a source of pleasure. Yesterday I was down below where the River unites after passing the island. It is a grand old river. The water has a peculiar green color. There is a gun boat building down here to run to Chatanooga. Yesterday we got a dispatch from Gen. Rosecrans directing us to afford every facility for hastening its completion. The highest range of mountains which over looks us here is only 2 or 3 miles off and the rebels come from beyond and look down upon us from the summit.

It is said there is a table-land some six miles broad up there. I intend to take some Cavalry and go up some day. It is too far for ordinary Cannon to be very effective, so we do not apprehend an attack from that direction much. There are no dwelling houses here - only a few eating shanties - and for a while before I came and while our mess-chest was behind our officers were compelled to get their meals at one of these.

Our diet continues daily the same - it is good enough but in the course of time I suppose we shall grow a little tired of Beef, bread & Coffee three times a day. We usually have molasses - and Major Reeves U.S.A. who spent night before last with us, has promised to send the General some Butter from Stevenson if he can. Maj. R. is on Hooker's staff and purchased my Bay Mare yesterday. So I will own but one horse and that was pronounced by Gen. Schurz yesterday the best at the Corps Head qrs. I sold my mare for \$150, being \$20 more than I paid for her last Winter.

Still it rains. Our men are at work building Corduroy roads towards Chatanooga and I <work> <at> the



fortifications. We somewhat expect an attack upon Rosecrans. We hardly comprehend why Hooker with a Maj. Gen. for Chief of Staff was sent out here. It must be that some addition will be made to his Command, I think, for it is to be expected the Gens. Slocum & Howard are each competent to take care of their own Corps - receiving orders direct from Rosecrans. Perhaps Hooker is to operate apart by himself as soon as the reinforcements arrive from Grant. None have yet come. Burnside remains, it is believed in status quo.

Your letter was all very interesting to me. Do you think your visit to Mass. Was a profitable one? Yesterday the vote was taken in our Ohio Regts. One of them 55th Ohio - 296 voters - was unanimous for Brough. The 73d was not so unanimous. Others I have not heard from.

I was very glad to hear that Hattie Patten is improving in health. Did you visit Farmington & see Perry? Will he go West to visit Uncle Henry [Strickland]?

How is the Corn Crop? This country - in fact also all of Kentucky & Tennessee - seemed to me to be under a poor state of Cultivation. I saw my first cotton field at Bristow near Bowling Green, Ky. I saw others and the negroes gathering the Cotton near Murfreesboro Tenn.

Otis is busy talking with some officers in his tent next to which comes mine which I share with Capt. Stinson. The latter is studying French. Otis would send love to you and all at home but will not disturb him. I wrote to Rowland yesterday & to mother day before. Letters will come so irregularly and be so long on the way I hope you will compensate by writing more frequently. Otis is getting better of his cold - I am almost well of mine. Our kind Heavenly Parent deals as beautifully in mercies & blessings as ever and I pray you & all at home may share an equal amount. With great love to Father & Mother & kind regards to the neighbors not forgetting Oscar and his esteemed wife.

Your Affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard

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10/17/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-118

Bridgeport, Ala

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[Written by someone else - From Bridgeford, Ala., Fall 1863, to his Mother. The town is probably Bridgeport, Ala. ]

5) [This is page 5, the first 4 are missing.]

for her children. The Dr. & I sat and talked with them quite a long time. The old woman brought some Chestnuts which she had gathered and so offered us a treat. I thought perhaps those very Chestnuts might be called into requisition before Spring & keep the Children from starving.

Yesterday we met here at Hd. qrs. a gentleman of a very different class from those I have been speaking of. He came down from the top of the mountain on the other side of the river avowedly to inform us that the Rebel Cavalry which are wont to visit his house, say that portion of their Army is going to attack us here & that they intend to plant artillery in the crest of the mountain (and he pointed out the exact place) and shell us out of our position here if possible. This gentleman was originally from Vermont. Has been Professor of Languages in a Tennessee College (of Winchester). His name is Guilford. One of his Sons he laments was a Secessionist - went into the Rebel service and died. He is a white-haired old gentleman - seemed frank & ready to Communicate all he knew. He has only been living where he now does, since the war. He says there is a broad plateau up there with fine farms - & is some 7 or 8 miles wide. He has from his place a fine view of all the surrounding country. Hence the Rebels go there or near there to overlook us and cannonade. They pretend to think that we have not so much of a force here as our tents indicate. I bet we put up empty tents for show.

He says this rain will probably prevent any immediate attack since it renders the river unfordable at any of the ordinary Fording-places. We have pontoons across which we can easily remove.

Yesterday our Scouts took two Rebel Cavalry prisoners - some four miles along up the R.R. on the other side of the river - towards Chatanooga.

We have had a furious rain-storm. Some Thunder with it and considerable Wind last night. Sometimes I feared our tent would go down, tho' my fears did not prevent me from sleeping unconcernedly. Capt Stinson was out in the Wind & rain & darkness until one o'clock this morning getting off some Pontoons, sent by the River up to Sewatchie River to bridge that - it having risen so much as to need to be bridged where the road from Stevenson to Chatanooga crosses it. Yesterday I was riding on the island, viewing in <mingled> wonder and compassion the indigenous inhabitants and noticing with curiosity and interest the new kinds of trees and plants which I had never before seen. The "Sweet Gum" is common and has a pretty leaf somewhat like a Maple - "Live Oak" is also pretty abundant and has a narrow, smooth & deep-green leaf. Some varieties of Locust trees were beautiful - one the "Honey Locust". An orphan boy told us the names of many of the new trees. The <Cone-brake> I think I have mentioned as one of the mountains.

[page] 8) I thought it remarkable on riding up to one of the log huts - nearly as miserable a house as any I had seen - "7 by 9" - big crevices - day-light seen from the other side entirely through - filthy as ever - children as ragged & dirty - but in conversing with the man I found he owned two hundred acres of land & good soil and he often raised great crops of corn - 50 bushels to the acre - also sweet potatoes in abundance. He had a negro man and besides rented a farm above his on the island. Still he belonged to the "Poor white trash" as it is called - that miserable class of society caused by the institution of Slavery and therefore not known in the North. They are ignorant & degraded and must remain so and likewise their children unless Slavery is wiped out by this war and then they can begin to hold up their heads with all the rest on equal footing. Inhabitants will become more numerous and they can afford to have schools - no monopolizers of the land.

But I will close. No letters rec'd today. Write often to Your Affectionate Son.  
C. H. Howard

11/15/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-119

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

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[In this letter, Charles has written on the pages first in a horizontal direction and then in a vertical direction.]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]  
Lookout Valley Nov. 15th, 1863.

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

When I returned from Bridgeport day before yesterday Capt. Stinson handed me a letter from you "dated Oct 28th". That was the day we entered this Valley and that night including the morning of the 29th till Day light we were fighting Longstreet's Corps. By the way the Chatanooga Rebel published at Atlanta Ga. Makes the most unconditional acknowledgment of a defeat on that night that I have ever seen in a Rebel Newspaper. It says it is indeed surprising how the Federal Army got so complete possession of Lookout Valley and the Tennessee River almost before their Generals were aware of it. I see that the Maine papers have it that we took Lookout Mountain. If the Editors were here with me this moment to hear the echoes of that last big gun which sent a shell from the famous Lookout Point whizzing and tearing through the air down this way they would change the tune about the possession of Lookout Mountain.

They fire every day more or less. Yesterday a Shell buried itself three feet in the ground within a dozen yards of where Otis & I were riding along. They possibly fired at a Wagon-train which was passing near us. As soon as we get the roads all corduroyed to Kelly's Ferry, the wagons can go a route very little exposed. Our Head quarters are rather long range for them besides they are somewhat concealed by trees and we have no apprehensions that they will trouble us from Lookout though shells have struck within one quarter of a mile this morning.

I suppose this would be quite near enough for our peaceful people at home. I might say it is quite near enough for us but still we are so accustomed to the noise and so well aware of our safety when they are that distance from us that we have no more feeling of fear than father would have should he hear the sound of turning out a cart load of stones - which you know makes considerable noise.

Your letter mentions the proposition of Uncle Oakes Ames [the husband of Eveline Gilmore, the sister of Dellie's father, John Gilmore. Ames was a U.S. Representative from Easton, Mass, between 1863 and 1873] and you were to answer it the same evening. I should have said go by all means even though you do not get a cent of pay. You never will have so inexpensive a way of visiting Washington and besides Uncle Oakes would certainly pay you if you should do him any service. If he will pay your expenses out & which then you ought to go by all means. Just think of the opportunity to see & learn at the National Capitol during a session of Congress. If you go I think it will be best for you to keep as much in the background as is convenient and be determined to learn all you can. Study the manners of the Representative men of our nation. Observe their style of thought and expression. But I cannot begin to enumerate the means of instruction which will be known in your way. I hope you will have the privilege of going and will be of some good service to your Uncle.

I have written some letters to the Boston Journal, one giving a full acct of the recent operations of our Corps & the nights engagements in Lookout Valley - Do not mention this to others as I do not wish my signature known. This last letter of yours Otis & I agree in pronouncing one of the best & certainly most interesting you have sent us. We like so much to hear about the every day life like the shingling of the wood-house, the little home-[poring bee], when Florence was there etc. I should think if you are going with Uncle Oakes you better not go down to Auburn at all - but be getting ready for your Winter's Absence. Mr. Chase's will certainly be a pleasant boarding-place.

I am glad my Aeolean has at last got on its way to repairs. I am always pleased to think that I have that at home still considered as mine. It is one bit of tangible personal property so peculiarly personal and so

connected with dear memories that it seems like a kind of representative of me at the old homestead.

Speaking of "Dressing Apples" reminded me that I had a present of a bbl. Of eating apples the other day at Bridgeport from my Classmate Douglass who is there in the Christian Commission. I slept one night in his tent. I wrote an acct. of my voyage down river in a log-canoe - thirty miles of paddling to Ella. The Steamboat had gone & I did not like to wait twenty-four hours for another especially as there were then some thoughts of an advance of <base> to Lookout Mountain. I of course did not want to be too long absent. I also got a bbl. Of potatoes & one of soft-bread so you perceive we are living high. Only four (4) in our "mess" now. Had it divided into three equal parts. We talk again having a consolidation for Thanksgiving day when we will all do our best to celebrate the combined thanksgiving occasion of Pres. Lincoln & Gov. Coburn. Our Caterer has been wont to roam over the mountains West of us for food. I hope all (every goose, turkey & chicken) will not be gone by that time.

It is a pleasant warm day - though our nights are pretty cool as I found the other night when coming on the Steamboat. I had no blanket and sat upon the mail-bag. Started after dark - arrived about one A.M. but remained on board till near day-light.

I subscribed for the Weekly Cincinnati Gazette for you with instructions that if you had already subscribed they should send the copy I paid for to Rowland. I hope you have delayed sending for the paper till now. Weekly would be better than a daily since it contains all the correspondence and Dailies never get too old to have any particular telegraphic news before they could reach you. I have written once to the Gazette signing "Alraia" but I do not know that they published my letter.

I rec'd a letter from John Weir the same time with yours; also one from Gilbreth (Lieut) who has been home on Leave but was to start from Augusta last week (10th) so We expect he will bring messages &c. from Lizzie. Did father receive my draft on order for \$100 which I received for my horse & did he have any trouble in getting it cashed. I believe I wrote that I desired to have him purchase another 5-20 Bond with it. Otis was just in here and got an apple out of my bbl. We had some grapes for Dessert at dinner (just now) which were also a present - from my good friend Douglass.

This writing across reminds me of some of the old letters I have seen in Mother's old packages. They came from a great distance as this will and then they had to pay 25 cts. Postage. With me it is not the amount of postage but the scarcity of stationery here at our Hd. Qrs. Which induces me to write crosswise with red ink.

I must not forget to tell you that Gen. Sherman has arrived at Stevenson (i.e. on the line of the Nashville R.R. and only about ten (10) miles beyond Bridgeport) with a portion of the Army of the Tennessee, Gen. Grant's old army. I suppose he is to come up on our right. Then Hooker will have the Center & Gen. Thomas the left and we will be strong enough to strike a blow if we wish.

This P.M. we are going to the Corps Hospital to attend Divine Service. The <53d> Mass Band will furnish the music & one of the Chaplains conduct the service. We are now pretty well fortified sufficient - probably to withstand any attack upon us - even without reinforcement which can be easily brought over from Chatanooga - less than four (4) miles via Brown's Ferry Pontoon bridge. In coming from Chatanooga here we cross the Pontoon in rear of the city, then take an almost straight road across a neck of land to the Brown's Ferry Pontoon. Chatanooga is three (3) miles from Lookout Point. Our lines in many places are written in miles. In going to Kelly's Ferry to which point the Steamboats come. From Brown's Ferry go up the Valley about a mile & then bear to the right round through a gap as [pass] Raccoon Range and you reach the Tennessee again in about four (4) miles. I write a good deal that is very general but I see that the newspapers do not give a very correct review of these things and I suppose you wish to know them. The Lord blesses us with good health. I pray him to guide you in a right & profitable course & keep you from sin & I trust He will do so.

Your Affectionate brother  
C H Howard

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11/18/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Editor of the Portland  
Press

CHH-120

Lookout Valley, Tenn

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Lookout Valley, Tenn.  
Nov. 18, 1863

To the Editor of the Portland Press:

I notice in the Eastern Newspapers a great deal of misconception relative to the operations of that part of the Army of the Cumberland (including the recent reenforcement from the Army of the Potomac), which undertook and accomplished the opening of the Tennessee River and thereby relieve the starving forces at Chatanooga.

The enclosed order from Gen. Thomas gives so clear a statement of the results combined with a complimentary mention of prominent parties engaged that I hope you will find space for its publication.

The accompanying characteristic order of Gen. Howard was received with unusual marks of gratification by the officers & soldiers of his Command.

Please insert in large type in some conspicuous place in your Paper that the Rebels still hold Lookout Mountain. If some of the Editors of Northern Newspapers or some Correspondents who furnish vivid accounts of scenes and operations here, though themselves never nearer than Bridgeport, (30 miles off), could pass along this Valley during any one of the Day-light hours and have one of these air rending, earth-shattering shells come swooping down from the Upper Regions, past his head - he would appreciate both what is meant by Lookout and the possession of it; at if the lesson is not too dearly learnt - he will be able to inform his readers that the River is in our possession all the way to Chatanooga with the exception of about a mile opposite Lookout Point commanded by the guns of the Enemy not yet dislodged from the Mountain. The Peninsula across from the Pontoon bridge at Brown's Ferry to that at Chatanooga is less than two (2) miles wide. Lookout Point is above three (3) miles from the city. So that there is an actual gain of distance in landing supplies at Brown's Ferry. But the "Suck" (or shallows) between Kelly's & Brown's doesn't permit <you> easy passage of the boats and so by crossing another peninsula formed by the Tennessee wagons can reach Kelly's in a distance of five (5) miles from Brown's, the boats usually leave their cargoes at Kelly's. The Rebels did hold all of this portion of the Tennessee as also twenty miles more of it towards Bridgeport.

This was adroitly wrested from them by Gen. Hooker's Command cooperating with forces from Chatanooga. The Southern papers say it is incomprehensible how the Federals got so complete possession of Lookout Valley in so short a time and not less so that Bragg should have suffered <there do so>.

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12/4/1863      *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-121c

Hdqrs. 11th Corps  
Loudon Tenn.

Farmington, Me.

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[This is a copy of a letter written in a different hand than CH Howard.]

Mailed at East Orchard, Ky.  
Dec 15, 1863

Hdqrs. 11th Corps  
Loudon Tenn. Dec 4, 1863

Dear Brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

We are waiting here for other columns to get in position and cross the Little Tennessee when we will all move forward to the relief of Burnside and against Longstreet if we can find him. The later has about 30,000 men and made an unsuccessful though but a partial attack on Burnside last Sunday. We can get no news since.

The garrison here escaped but we captured flour & meal enough to feed our command two or three days. This morning we put a Regt. across the river and they drove off the Cavalry videttes of the Enemy and just now I learn they have found four cannon abandoned by the Rebels. In our advance the 15th Corps comd'd by F. P. Blair has the right Wing. The 4th Granger the center and the 11th (ours) the left. Today we have been building our bridges across the Little Tenn. Sometimes we fear Burnside will not hold out (as he has only 15,000 and is probably short of provisions). Then again sometimes we fear Longstreet will get off to Va.

In the latter case we will congratulate ourselves on Burnside's relief and a campaign grandly successful and important in its results. But there still seems good reason to believe that Longstreet tarries. Not a quarter of an hour ago we learned that our cavalry Regt. left to guard the bridge at Charleston (the Hirvasee) had come away and that the Rebel Gen. Wheeler was approaching. It is a pity our {an} Infantry Regt. had not been left there - still we chased a Rebel Infantry Regt. Wheeler will probably destroy the bridge and pick up some stragglers - possibly some wagons - but we are without trains and have none on the way to join us that we know of. So Wheeler will find the rear unusually dry.

It is a warm pleasant day but I have had a bad cold for some time. This will make it better. We are in an old hotel kept by a German who has been a Consul for the U.S. Govt. an old Whig. He has a fair library but mostly German & French books. We have been compelled to take books {horses} for our artillery and soldiers taking advantage of this have stolen a great many. The people are flocking in with all sorts of complaints and I am exceedingly sorry to find that many good Union people have suffered. Blair's Corps are regular robbers roaming all over the country. I fear the Lord will not bless us if this practice is not stopped. The Episcopal Clergyman here - an Englishman - came in this morning - a staid old fellow with not over much polish. We took 75 Rebel wounded of Sunday's fight here. Expect steamer up here to bring rations for Granger's Corps today. The Div'n. Of Jeff C. Davis which has been in our column considerably will now be the Reserve for this Army.

Sherman is a hearty thorough-working commander. Will never be over cautious - and believes that the whole country in Rebellion ought to be devastated. Longstreet may escape into Va or into South through a portion of North Carolina and he may give us battle. We have enough to meet him even though Burnside should do nothing and of course he may easily cooperate.

The country we marched through in coming from Parker's Gap (7 miles East of Ringold) here is much more thrifty than any we have seen before in the South. The villages are pleasant and what is most refreshing there are many Union people who receive us with open arms and give all the information they can. Dr. Hubbard is still with us, remaining voluntarily till the campaign is over when he will go home. Dr. D. Brinton - new med. Director is a fine gentleman. Capt. Stinson rode last night to Morgantown to Gen. Sherman not getting back till 2 this morning. Balloch is away back in Lookout Valley and has \$50 of my money besides a letter containing \$100 directed to father which he may have mailed. I got my pay

for October just before we started. We have not seen a newspaper since the great battle. The Editor sent {sends} me the Cincinnati Gazette gratis and I will send you some copies if I find anything worth the while. I wrote a recital of the four (4) days fighting and pursuit of the Enemy. It was almost too much like a statement of bare events or military movements to be interesting and as the Gazette has correspondents here who probably wrote more attractive accounts I doubt if mine is published. I did write two or three articles or letters to the Boston Journal signed "Zephyras". Did you see them?

Please give much love to Ella. I have looked in vain for hers and all letters lately. I suppose you are beginning to have snow. Last Sunday and Monday were as cold here as they ever have been and I never was more uncomfortable from the cold than when we first started in the early mornings of those days. Thermometer said 18° above zero. This place is small and like all villages long occupied by troops is filthy & dilapidated.

I feel as though there must have been a good deal of faithful prayer and the Lord's time had come. A kind Providence has been with us all along. Dawn at Charleston the Rebels left behind plenty of excellent timber from which we bridged Hirvassee in one night. They left flour & meal for our men as our cannon prevented them from taking it away or destroying the cars. They left salt and therefore we could use the numerous sheep and cattle on the road. Tell me about Thanksgiving at Farmington. I don't know as I will be able to mail this for the present - all I trust will eventuate favorably and we will not fail to give the Lord {God the} praise.

Your affectionate brother,  
C.H. Howard

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12/4/1863      *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-121

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Loudon Tenn

Farmington, Me.

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Mailed at Crab Orchard Ky. Dec. 15, 1863

Headquarters Eleventh Corps, [Letterhead]  
Loudon Tenn. Dec. 4 1863.

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Your affectionate brother,  
C.H. Howard

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12/6/1863      *From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-122

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Army of the Tennessee  
Louisville, Tenn

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps, Army of the Tennessee [The letterhead was originally the "Army of the Potomac". Potomac was crossed out and Tennessee hand written.]  
Louisville, Tenn. Dec. 6th 1863.

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is late Sunday Evening and I have just returned from Knoxville which is fourteen miles from here by the route we took on this side of the river. Neither this Corps nor any of the forces under Gen. Sherman except Granger's Corps will proceed any further. Longstreet retreated from Knoxville night before last. The 11th Corps had reached this place last night and was nearer than any other troops. Had he remained we would have attacked him today. Gen. Sherman had given the command of his right Wing to Gen. F. P. Blair, his Center to Brig. Gen. Gordon Granger and his left to Gen. Howard, and issued the order that each column take the offense and attack the Enemy where ever and when ever and as soon as they could find him. By building our own bridge across the Little Tennessee, making use of Confederate Wagons we captured at Loudon, we were able to out strip the other troops. The river is 900 feet wide and we bridged it in one night working from Sunset till day-light when our troops began to cross. We took planks from Barn floors, hauled some from the Depot at Loudon. The wagons were attached to each other and then planks laid between. About one third of the bridge we built of trestle wood, not having wagons enough. We marched from Loudon at one A.M. Only two could cross the bridge at a time so that considerable delay was occassioned but we marched twenty miles and reached here soon after dark. We then communicated with Burnside and got an answer before morning.

I have given you no account of our recent grand victory over Bragg and I am too tired to do it tonight. Week ago today we turned our course from pursuing Bragg to try and catch Longstreet and at least relieve Burnside. Fortnight ago today the 11th Corps moved over from Lookout Valley into Chattanooga and on Monday 23'd Nov. the fighting began.

Today we learned at Knoxville that our forces have taken in all 10,000 prisoners. We have seen no papers and scarcely any one from Chattanooga since we left on Wed. 25th ult. I will not try to write more. I was glad of an opportunity to mail a letter to mother & one to Rowland today. I don't know how soon they will get thro' to Cincinnati - over the mountains & wagon roads. They go by Courier lines. We are with a Union man Mr. Foster who came here today for the first time since Longstreet came up here.

Otis is reading his Testament. He gave \$50 to a Union man here who had been robbed by our soldiers of all he had. They found his home empty last night and broke in to get food & covering (as some of them are without blankets) and perhaps they were regular thieves looking for anything valuable. The owner was about on acct. of the Rebel occupation but came home today to find that the Rebels had not touched his property but the Union soldiers had stolen and devastated all! We heard it with an excellent spirit and Otis has remunerated him in some small measure.

Good night.  
Dec. 7th Monday  
"Davis' Ford" on Little Tennessee - Evening

Dear Dellie,

After another day's march retrograde I am back across our wagon bridge. We have Hd. Qrs. In one of the houses so common in this locality made of logs and forty years old. Some maiden old ladies strongly Union are our hostesses. One of them is in the room showing some feather-fans of various fowls & Otis is going to purchase some specimens to send home.

I fear Longstreet will get off undisturbed though I learned today that Granger is going to remain with

Burnside for the present. We may threaten Bragg on our way back via Athens & Cleaveland and fight him if he comes to meet us otherwise I think we will return to Lookout Valley.

Gen. Burnside & staff were pretty confident they could have held Knoxville against any assault but from accounts of those who were in the Fort attacked (Sanderson) I concluded that they came very near getting Louisville, Tenn through the defenses. Knoxville must have been rather a flourishing little city - Streets paved - regularly laid out - built upon side of a hill - two or three churches - a nice banking-building now used for Provost Marshall's Office. Parson Brownlow ran away on Longstreet's first approach. Some of our staff dined with Mrs. B. (his wife) and saw his accomplished and heroic daughter. A Rebel Colonel taken prisoner in that assault (week ago Sunday) proved to be a brother of Mrs. Brownlow and at her request he had been paroled and was staying at her house, keeping his chamber most of the time however.

You may not be aware that we are marching without wagon-trains and have been actually campaigning on Popes principle - viz - ignoring our base of supplies. It was arranged that some steam boats should come up the Tennessee but they could not pass the shoals below Kingston. When we got back to Athens we will want a day or two and try and get some supplies across from the river. Our troops are doing without coffee & sugar and we get all they have to eat from the country. We captured salt enough from the Rebels and so we took flocks of sheep and dozens of cattle collecting as we go.

We impress Mills and work them night and day grinding wheat. The people being so largely loyal, render us great assistance. One man has promised to dig a hundred bushels of potatoes which will give one day's rations of <> vegetables to the Corps. We will reach Sweet Water tomorrow. There I saw on my way up one of the prettiest and pleasantest young ladies of Union sentiments that it has ever been my good fortune to meet. So I say to Capt Stinson one will try and reach sweet "Sweet Water" tomorrow.

Otis has just gone to bed upon his Camp cot and I must not sit up long. He remarked just now "how wonderfully successful all of Gen. Grant's plans have been"!

A Kind Providence has blessed every movement. The Lord's time had come - that is the secret.

Burnside is now to be relieved by Foster. We may go with Sherman further West. I do not know. We like Sherman - is a hearty thorough-working Commander determined to use every means to put down this Rebellion. Do you get the Gazette (Weekly) I subscribed for you? They send it to me gratis and I will write some for it as I have already. I wrote a long acct. of the battle but I am uncertain whether it was published.

I would like a Leave after this Campaign but it is too far to go to Maine. Will you go or have you gone to Washington? The two maiden ladies here are large weighing about 200 lbs. each. Cousins of Jeff Davis but completely loyal.

You will with a true statement of the artillery captured by our forces. I have heard it variously stated from 36 to 75 pieces. I think about 60 will be the truth.

It is cold weather - with frost on the ground every morning - but you perhaps have snow. We are longing for a change of clothing as we have not seen our valises for more than two weeks. It will be nearly two more before we can reach them. I have taken off my undershirt once and stayed in the house while it was washed!

Burnside did not push out after Longstreet so vigorously as we thought he ought but he was rather too weak to do much besides being apathetic from long standing on the defensive. Capt. Stinson is about to ensconce himself in one of Marne Davis' feather beds and I will go and do likewise.

Please give Mother the news of this letter as speedily as possible as our mails have been very uncertain and even the one I mailed at Knoxville mail was old - written several days ago. I am pleased at your good situation with Palsifer. Go to the bottom of things in the Law. Get the first principles to start with and do not be super-ficial. Perhaps you need no such caution, but you will not take it amiss from an affectionate brother. May the Lord guide & bless you. My regards to Mr. Palsifer.

Very Affectionately,  
C. H. Howard

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12/9/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Ella Howard

CHH-123

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Athens (Tenn.)

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Athens (Tenn.) Dec 9 1863

My dear Sister Ella [Howard, Rowland's wife]

This is rather a delicate sheet upon which to begin a letter to a young lady I acknowledge but besides the fact that this is the only kind of paper I have and the last of that, you will find before I get through (if your patience holds out) that I have enough to tell you even to fill a "foolscap" sheet.

Hd. qrs. are at the hotel of this town - the county seat and most considerable place in the vicinity. We marched through here on our way up to Knoxville - where we went as you will have learned to visit Mr. Longstreet but found him out. He went away bag and baggage journeying "back to Old Virginny", on Friday night and on Saturday night we reached Louisville and communicated with Burnside at Knoxville - 14 or 15 miles distant.

Athens has a fine brick court-house - some good brick & wooden homes - and two quite city-like streets. It is quite an old town for I heard one of the Elder citizens say today that they used to bring their goods by wagons from Baltimore (!) before the R.R. was built - a dozen years ago or more. They came via Winchester Va. thence up the valley and by the South Western Corner of Virginia - thence nearly by the course of the R.R. to Knoxville - the very way that Mr. Longstreet has taken with his 25,000 men.

Athens is partially at least a merry town tonight. There are quite a goodly no. of Union families and besides the natural exhilaration from the presence of U.S. troops. I have had the 33d Mass Band playing up on the balcony of this house all the evening until a few moments ago and I now hear there is a distant quarter giving bad dreams to Miss Secession by playing "Yankee Doodle" that most detestable of all tunes to the genuine Rebel.

We may be here several days as it is proposed to get some supplies (a thing we have not seen so long I doubt my ability to define it). At any rate some sugar and coffee from a point on the Tennessee opposite here - called Cottonport - some dozen (?) miles below Kingston I believe. The Steamboats started to carry their cargoes to Loudon but the Shoals prevented their going any further. Sherman's forces are East of us but are coming here also for supplies. We have been impressing all the Gristmills in the region where we have been and grinding wheat night and day. We captured from the Rebels on our way up (at Charleston 14 miles below here on the Hiwassee River) salt enough to last the Corps till now. So by taking Cattle, Sheep and hogs our men have got along satisfactorily. Once we got hold of some "Sick Wheat" - an article I never heard of till within a day or two but it came near disabling (the stomachs of) all the men who had the misfortune to eat it.

Last night we were at Sweetwater and a sweeter place I have not found in East Tennessee - no not in all our campaigning in the West - and I don't know but that I should include "Old Virginny" too but for the ineradicable memory of a certain female Rebel called by some "Miss Mountville" though this I believe to be a fictitious name derived from the place where this Rebel in Lamb's clothing resided and of whom I wrote you a full account in a previous letter. Nevertheless when this cruel war is over and I am on my happy way round calling upon all my innumerable friends, acquaintances and sweethearts found while campaigning and am passing up this delightful valley via Cleveland - Charleston - Athens - Sweetwater - Philadelphia - Loudon - <Sluition> and Louisville to Knoxville, I shall certainly plan to take Supper and Breakfast at sweet Sweetwater and spend the intermediate time in demonstrating to a certain union family (composed of a rich and honest father, a lady-like and agreeable mother and a beautiful daughter) that my union sentiments remain unchanged; and also in endeavoring to ascertain whether the young lady is as strongly in favor of the union as she was on the morning of the 9th of December 1863.

Did I mention coffee and sugar? It weighs upon my mind - not the coffee and sugar but the astounding announcement made by our mess-man tonight that it was all gone from our larder (ambulance). We have taken most of our meals with the good union people or other choice families on the march in hopes to keep up our supply. The people have wheat coffee or sweet milk and some few have a little coffee

with a great deal of dried sweet-potato - but that our right royally loyal family I have mentioned at sweet Sweetwater had the genuine article of coffee - the real old-fashioned Rio. You might know they belonged to the Constitution as it was and the Union that shall be. But the inquisitive mind of my sister must be satisfied - and know that Mr. H. was wise enough to get a quantum sufficit of coffee and like luxuries from Louisville at an early stage of the war and the supply still holds good.

We expect Gen. Sherman here tomorrow tho' he is now away off at Tellico plains near the borders of Georgia and in the mountains. We have heard that Breckenridge is coming this way with a large army to meet us - but do not credit it. Rebel cavalry were here yesterday P.M just before our advance reached here. Today one of our Brigades arrived at Charleston (14 miles below) and found that the fine bridge (R.R.) which we had repaired and made fit for crossing troops & artillery, working one entire night, had been destroyed. The Cavalry left by Sherman to guard it ran away - a pack of cowards - but under the same kind Providence which has thus far attended us throughout this successful campaign the green timbers would not burn and the Rebels failed to destroy the bridge so but that we can repair it in half a day or little more and it will be done tomorrow or next day.

If the enemy should come up this way we would hold the line of the Hiwassee which is quite a river - navigable by small boats to Charleston.

Wouldn't you think it about time for us to have a change of clothing - going on to three weeks since we left our valises in Lookout Valley? I got some paper collars at Knoxville - of course I was bound to shine when I returned to Sweetwater. I had three (3) (extravagant!) pairs of (white) socks along and my "Wash." (Black) by occasional washing has kept my pedal extremities cleanly clad. As wear three shirts I can easily spare one at a time to be washed so you observe I make a shift to keep clean. If I do not have a change of clothing - if other things fail and the boots look red (as they have for some days since the blacking gave out) I make good account of the paper collars and now I am seriously contemplating wearing them about my wrists and ankles. I shall not probably resort to this unless I am not back on duty to sweet Sweetwater.

I wrote a letter to Rowland while at Loudon and mailed it at Knoxville last Sunday. I mailed one to Mother there at the same time written previously at Loudon also and which I thought I had lost. I found Knoxville a pleasant town making considerable pretensions to a city. I was up in the Fort ("Sanderson" they have named it from the young and brave General <L.> killed when Longstreet first crossed the river at Loudon) which sustained the assault week ago Sunday.

Lt. Benjamin you will remember. It was his fort and he behaved manfully. With his own hands dashed the shells in among the Rebels after they got into the ditch of the fort and were too near and well covered to be harmed by the artillery firing. 300 surrendered in that very ditch and the rest retreated with heavy loss from the severe musketry poured upon them from the fort. Benjamin was at <> when we reached Knoxville. Some of the staff dined with Mrs. Brownlon and had the honor to meet her heroic daughter whom they all pronounce to be a most perfect lady and very charming - about 25 - intelligent and beautiful. The Parson and Hon. Horace Maynard decamped when Longstreet approached.

For ourselves I know not when next dear Ella but think we must return to camp for a little while as many of our men are barefooted and no shoes can be procured here. We are 70 miles yet from Chattanooga. We wait orders from Gen. Grant. Otis is well but a little vexed with some of his sub-commanders who have suffered straggling & stealing to some extent. Not <borrowed> from any house friends since the battle. Will you write?

Very affectionately  
C. H. Howard

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12/10/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-124

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Athens - McMinn Co.  
Tenn

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Athens - McMinn Co. Tenn  
Dec 10, 1863

My dear Mother

I will have an opportunity to send a letter to Chattanooga by an officer we are to send there for Coffee & Sugar & Shoes for our troops. He will start at 11 tonight and now it is ten o'clock.

We have been listening to music from the 33d Mass Band. Gen. Sherman is in town and has been here (at Mr. Claige's) where our Hd. qrs. are. We came to town yesterday. He came today and we gave up our Hd. qrs at the Hotel to him and have <Camped> here. Mr. Claige is a union man and his wife is very much of a lady. We took Supper & will take all our meals with them. They have plenty of Negro servants. He is the cashier of the Planters Bank of Tennessee - quite wealthy. Athens is a pleasant town. We may remain several days waiting orders from Gen. Grant.

I wrote you at Loudon on our way up and mailed the letter last Sunday at Knoxville. We hear by Gen. Sherman that Burnside moved out in pursuit of Longstreet after we left but with what result we do not know. The force under Foster at Cumberland Gap moved also upon Longstreet's flanks and is said to have a portion of the Rebel Army in a tight place to use a phrase. I think we will move down to Charleston on the Hiwassee River soon. This will bring us 15 miles nearer Chattanooga. We wish to keep East Tennessee entirely clear of Rebels while we are here at any rate.

There are a great many Union people but I think they all wish to retain "the institution".

We hope to get some mail this time. I read over your good long letter again today. We have got some leather here and are employing all the tools & shops making shoes. We got some salt also from a Rebel citizen and we can always find plenty of fresh beef & mutton.

I send with this a letter to Dellie and a long one to Ella.

This is "Secesh" paper. With much love to father. I will draw to a close. Imagine us in a large bed chamber - carpeted and elegantly furnished. Otis always has his camp cot but Capt. Stinson & I deign to sleep in beds such as we find. We brought along our robes which we are obliged to make serve as feather beds and Coverlids and all some times. When this campaign is over I hope to have a leave of absence at least to go & get some clothes at Louisville Ky.

The Lord deals kindly with us. May His blessing be upon you & all whom we love at home is my daily prayer.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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12/13/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-132

Hd. qrs 11th Corps  
Charleston (on the  
Hiwassee) Tenn.

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Hd. qrs 11th Corps

Charleston (on the Hiwassee) Tenn.

Dec 13 1863 [No date was given. Somebody had written in Dec, 1863. He refers to it being Sunday, which would be either 6, 13, 20, 27. The reference to the letter to Mr. Gilman, written on the 13th, I believe establishes it to be the 13th]

My dear brother [Dellie]

If Capt Stinson had not just upset my little pocket ink-stand I should have written you a tremendously long letter upon this stupendous sheet. The paper was captured from the office of the Athens Post - a flourishing Rebel paper publication as its name indicates - of the town 14 miles above here. I believe I did not write you but I wrote mother a brief letter from there. It is the County-town of McMinn Co. There are many warm union citizens - men, women and children there. Sherman caught the Editor of the Athens Post running away into the mountains, trying to get off toward North Carolina or Georgia. He was originally from New Jersey but told Sherman he was a Secessionist. So Sherman says he shall advise his banishment to the Coast of Africa since that is the only place where Secession can be allowed. Some old copies of the Athens Post show that the Editor was a rank Rebel. He had some pretty daughters and Gilbreth (Lieut.) who boarded there had most vivacious discussions with them to use a mild term.

You perceive we are wending our way back. The Rebels, while we were gone, got at and destroyed this Charleston R.R. Bridge which we spent a whole night in repairing on our way up. So we had to rebuild it - taking another day and night's work.

The cowardly Cavalry guard ran away on the strength of a rumor of the enemy's approach. Today is Sunday. One week ago we visited Knoxville. We hear now that Burnside moved out in pursuit of Longstreet as soon as Granger's Corps got up and that in conjunction with Foster from Cumberland Gap and the Cavalry, he has taken 5000 prisoners, week ago today at Knoxville.

Two weeks ago today we left chasing Bragg and turned our attention and our course towards Longstreet. We marched from Parker's Gap in White Oak mountains to Cleaveland - about 20 miles. I suppose I have told you how we swung off from our base and have not yet established any other. We have lived upon the Country and upon the provisions taken from the Enemy. The salt we captured in the cars here going up lasted I think till we returned to this place and with salt you know we could do well enough for meat - taking sheep, cattle & hogs. This is a rich country. We have found hundreds of bushels of wheat and grinding it at the mills thus supplied our forces with the staff of life. We now issue wheat for coffee and the soldiers get a quantity of molasses or syrup manufactured here - some buy - some steal or rob the families of their molasses. And we have several times purchased bbls. of it and issued it as a ration.

This Country was until 1838 the land of the Cherokees - from the Hiwassee on the North East all along the Tennessee taking a wide tract of Southern Tennessee, Northern Georgia and Northern Alabama. John Rosse, the chief of the nation, lived at Chattanooga. It was then called Rossie's Landing. (It is said that he once lived in Lookout Valley at the house we first occupied there.) His brother lived here (at Charleston). When the United States sent troops to force the removal of the Cherokees, Gen. Scott was in command and had his Head quarters in a log cabin which he had built upon the very spot where stands this house in which I am writing. The door of his Cabin is still preserved, hung upon one of the out-buildings here. Louis Rosse and his brother John finally contracted for the removal of the Cherokees at so much per head and the troops only assisted in hunting them up and guarding their transportation. Some families still remain in the mountains out East of here. Considerably many are in the Rebel army. Some of their blood flows in the veins of people still living in this quarter. One of the fighting Rebel Morgans (now dead) was partly Indian. A woman who was down here today & lives just up the river and who set out with one or two other females the other day - armed to the teeth to capture a Yankee picket - has considerable Indian blood, as you might well suppose.

It is raining today and this evening we had a Thunder storm - Thunder & lightning in December is an

unusual phenomenon for me to witness. I suppose the rainy season will soon set in. Hope we will get to our camps first. The men are suffering much for shoes and entire brigades have been without blankets throughout the campaign - starting out as they did first to battle and then without turning back pushing on after Bragg and thence changing their course and hastening without pause to the relief of Burnside.

Three weeks ago today our Corps marched over into Chattanooga from Lookout Valley. So the Sundays mark periods in our campaign. Tomorrow we will probably move on towards Chattanooga say to Cleaveland taking three days to reach our old Camp this time passing round or over the nose of the awe-inspiring Lookout Mt. which we so long looked upon almost with dread - a much nearer route to Lookout Valley than across the two pontoons and the peninsula which latter course I now take it for granted you understand since we followed it several times and I certainly must at some time have described it to you - Whither next? I do not know.

If we were to take another dabb at Bragg's Army (now commanded by Harden) I should think it better to do it before we return, allowing Sherman (with us) to move down upon the Enemy's right flank near Dalton while the troops from Chattanooga move out and strike his proper front or if strong enough, his left flank at the same time. But Grant (the old unconditional) has a more fertile brain than even your talented correspondent so I will not presume to dictate but will pray God's blessing upon whatever is proposed and undertaken and will insure from what I have seen of Sherman, that he will execute his part with as single-minded, willing and energetic a style as even Grant himself could desire.

I have written to Mr. Gilman but know not when his or this letter can go - no mails since we started - no change of clothing for officers or men. Got a supply of paper-collars at Knoxville and I count largely upon them to keep up a respectable appearance. I find, however, that I cannot (unluckily) use them either for stockings, drawers or undershirt.

As I have written to Mr. G. you better not furnish anything from this to him until you have seen that letter. You may if you choose make a selection for the Lewiston paper. If Gilman does not publish my letter of this date I wish you would get it of him some time. You can tell him you wish to preserve it. I have given no other account of this campaign up after Longstreet and apprehend I will not have opportunity to write a second.

Please keep all these things as confidential i.e. belonging to the family. Write me often. I don't know but that you are in Washington! In (I ought say) Bombay! Only I don't think it probable you would go to the latter place even though you had a half century to do it in. If you are in the land of Civilization please so state and I will get the letter when I arrive at the peaceful borders of the same.

My regards to Mr. & Mrs. P. if the latter remembers me.

Your Affectionate brother,  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Your letter which I wrote at <[torn]>. I sent to Chattanooga from Athens with one for Mother and one for Ella. Did Mother get one I mailed at Knoxville do you think?



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12/13/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mr. Gilman

CHH-125

Hd. qrs. 11th Army  
Corps  
Charleston - (on the  
Hiwassee River) Tenn.

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Hd. qrs. 11th Army Corps  
Charleston - (on the Hiwassee River) Tenn.  
Dec. 13th 1863

Mr. Gilman  
My dear Sir

The Telegraph will have announced the important movements, the battles and the grand successes of our Armies here in the West long before you see this. In fact I cannot tell when this will reach a mail-route. We have received no mail since we started in pursuit of Bragg Nov. 26th - (Thanksgiving day). It is now the third Sunday and we have not even seen a paper till yesterday and that dated Dec. 2nd (from Cincinnati). We also saw a Rebel paper of Dec. 1st. Since we cannot hear from the rest of mankind nor even read the Chronicle of our own doings I will endeavor to communicate to you some recital of what we have been about of late.

I shall not dwell upon the magnificent operations about Chattanooga which resulted in the grandest victory ever attained by the Union Army. In the newspaper we saw, all were gratified to find so correct and graphic though brief account of these by Quartermaster Gen. Meigs. I hope you have treated your readers to a copy of the same, as I know you would have done had you seen it.

On Saturday Nov. 29 Gen. Howard's command constituted the left of the combined Army. The day before he had sent two Brigades to Red Clay on the Dalton & Knoxville R.R. to destroy the R.R. which was successfully accomplished and some prisoners were captured in the expedition. Red Clay may not be found upon ordinary maps. It is on the boundary line between Georgia and Tennessee and half way between Cleaveland and Dalton. This force of Gen. Howard's therefore flanked Dalton and then it was learned that Bragg would not halt in his retreat even at Dalton and that his army was already pressing back in all haste below Dalton and towards Atlanta.

On Sunday Nov. 29th Gen. Sherman commanding Department of the Tennessee and having under him besides the troops he had brought from Memphis, the 11th Army Corps and Davis' Divn of Thomas' Army, started for the relief of Burnside. They did not wait for supplies to come from Chattanooga. The troops were without knapsacks and the 11th Corps has already been absent from Camp an entire week. Some brigades had left even their blankets behind on going into battle in front of Chattanooga and had not yet been able to return to get them. There was no supply train and no hope of having any as we were to move directly away from our base not attempting to keep connection with the same. It was the wild project of ignoring our base so ridiculous in the terms proposed by Pope in Virginia and capable of being successfully carried through only by the most resolute and fertile of Commanders and in a country like this crowned with an abundance of provisions. Gen. Sherman inquired of Gen. Howard on Saturday whether he would be willing to undertake the expedition with his Command without waiting or returning for supplies. Gen. Howard replied that he was ready to do it at once. It was known that Burnside was hard pressed and a hundred miles was before us. So the march was ordered early Sunday morning Gen. Howard having the right column - Davis' Divn also moving in conjunction with his Corps. Before sunset we reached Cleaveland having made twenty miles - chasing a few Rebel Cavalry out of town. All along this day's march we met with earnest Union people who come sometimes a mile or two to convey information and they turned out all along the road seemingly gratified at a sight of "the Yankees" as is the habit of the Country to denominate the federal forces. Secesh stays sullenly within doors, scowling through the windows or not deigning to look out at all.

At Cleaveland some few flags were flying. It is a neat and before the war was a flourishing village - at the Corner of the triangle formed by Rail Roads - the one going to Chattanooga, the other to Dalton. We heard of a small force at Charleston but hoped to prevent it destroying the bridge across the Hiwassee. Soon after noon we reached there. Our skirmishers rushed forward into town and we saw the Rebels running like rats upon the other side of the river. They had succeeded in destroying the R.R. bridge

overturning two of the high trestles and the pontoon they had partially destroyed cutting it loose and swinging it round to the opposite bank. With our artillery we drove the Rebels from a train of cars from which they were trying to extract some supplies on the other side of the river - perhaps trying to burn the train. Soon Col. <Volland> Smith had a portion of his brigade across by boats and captured the contents of the cars, <seized> flour enough for the Corps for three days - salt even for a longer period and some other articles of less importance. Some casks of large nails or spikes were among the articles and they came into requisition at once in rebuilding the bridge. All the pioneers and a large party of men detailed from Smith's Brigade were at once set at work under charge of a member of the Corps staff and before day-light next morning a complete wagon-bridge was finished.

So with scarcely any delay we were on our march again and reached Athens the County-town of McMinn Co. before night. Here our eyes were greeted with the sight of the Stars & Stripes waving in front of some of the finest homes of the place. We began to hear rumors of a fight Longstreet had had with Burnside and that his attack had been repelled. Our commissaries gathered in the Cattle and Sheep as we went and with our captured salt we were abundantly provided with meat. Our artillery horses had begun to give out on the first day of the march but the artillery officers had orders to take the good horses they could find upon the route and give proper receipts for them. If the owners are loyal they will receive their pay for these as well as for the cattle, forage and other necessities taken - if Rebels, never a cent.

At Sweetwater our column halted an hour longer than the usual dinner halt to allow Long's Cavalry Brigade to pass in hopes by a sudden dash to save the Pontoon bridge at Loudon and possibly capture Gen. Vaughn & force, who our good Union friends informed us, were still there.

Gen. Sherman had his Hd. qrs. at Mrs Genl. Vaughn's at Sweetwater. The lady was at home and assured us (with considerable indiscretion it was thought by some) that her husband (Genl. Vaughn) was still at Loudon and had not escaped towards North Carolina as it was rumored. The Cavalry captured the pickets and rushed on towards Loudon with great apparent boldness till they came near the town where a piece of artillery opened and they came to a sudden stand still - command and all. A regiment or two were dismounted and skirmished a little and word was sent to the rear of the state of things. Darkness came on and the Cavalry was still maneuvering and had not got the town. The 11th Corps also had marched 23 miles and the hour's delay had made them too late to reach Loudon until deep darkness had set in. One of their batteries was sent for and but nothing was accomplished except the demonstration that the Cavalry Commander was unfit for the business he had undertaken to say the least.

Gen. Vaughn succeeded in destroying 42 cars 3 locomotives and any amount of stores of all kinds - even soldiers clothing. Great quantities of ammunition were destroyed. But at day light next morning when the 11th Corps reached the place they found again Confederate flour & meal enough for several days - some hard bread and other valuable commissary stores. Troops were immediately put across the Tennessee in boats who chased away the Rebel Cavalry and took four rifled cannon which it seems had been left by Vaughn in his hasty flight to Knoxville.

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12/16/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* unknown

CHH-126

Cleveland TN

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[This appears to be a postscript to another letter]

Cleveland [TN]

Dec 16 1863

On our way to Lookout Valley & will reach there in two days if Hardee does not attack us in the left flank. Got two letters from you here written after Thanksgiving - the first mail for 3 weeks. Hope to find some more at our Camp. Col. Hiram Hayes has arrived from Army of Potomac as our Quarter Master. All Well. C.H.H.

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12/17/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-127

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley  
Dec 17 1863

My dear Mother

Yesterday we reached our old Camp. Many of the men without shoes - a hard march the last day or two. We made two days from Cleveland. Then we lived like princes. The General (Otis) Capt Stinson & I at the house of Mr. Craigmiles who, is very wealthy and a staunch union man. His wife is very hospitable. His daughter, young lady of about 16 years a good pianist - night before last we stayed at the house of a Baptist minister at Tyner's Station on the Knoxville & Chattanooga R.R.

We had then begun to get into the region where the Rebel Army had encamped somewhat. Our Army too had swept through there. The old gentleman whose name was Henry Gatcher had had every thing stripped from him chiefly by our i.e. Union Soldiers. The Rebels had taken his provisions - poultry, potatoes, corn &c but the Federals took their blankets & coverlids from his bed. His wife was an old lady and of course was much afflicted at the losses. They had hardly enough to keep off starvation. We gave them flour (a little) and some sugar & coffee as we had had a train come to meet us with two days rations of the latter. You know we lived entirely from the country and from what we captured of the Rebels while gone - for three weeks.

I think I had a great, very great, reason to thank God last night when safely back again to our tent after having passed through so many dangers and through all this rough and arduous Campaign and came out so well. I also found waiting me three letters - very great treat - one from Rowland - one from Lizzie Strickland at Chicago (taking French lessons) and one from Miss Jeanie Grey. Otis had a dozen or more - one late one from Lizzie saying Isabella was with her as would be in a day or two. We got some letters at Cleveland and there first saw some newspapers. But we found some scores of the latter since the Cincinnati Daily Gazette comes to me by mail and the N.Y. Tribune to Otis - both sent to us gratis. We returned by the nose of Lookout Mountain instead of crossing the pontoons as when we went to Chattanooga. The sides of Lookout are very steep, rocky and precipitous. I can hardly understand how the troops could climb up there to say nothing of fighting. But the truth is there was very little opposition (only one Brigade being on this side and that was mostly captured by the suddenness of the movement). But after reaching the top and attempting to pass down the other side the passage was hotly disputed and held against Hooker's men but the Rebels retreated in the night.

The papers are full of errors. We were not with Hooker at all. But after our Corps opened communication with Sherman we began to cooperate with him & at length marched up and joined his army and did not leave him till yesterday. Hooker had Col. Hayes reached us at Cleveland having come from the old 2nd Divn 2nd Corps Army of Potomac. He used to live with Mr. Farwell and was Clerk in Washington. His family (brother, &c) live in Farmington. Capt Cross our new Aide de Camp - taking poor Griffeth's place has also just joined us.

Col. Balloch says he sent the letter containing my \$100 soon after he heard the result of the battle. We are all very happy for the prosperity God has vouchsafed to our cause. I hope our nation will not forget that it is the Lord Almighty who reigneth and giveth victory to whom He will.

You spoke of my investing in the West. I am convinced it would be much better than it is to accumulate what little I have got all in one place. As to Uncle Henry I should not put myself into his hands even though I believe him disposed to treat me with the greatest kindness.

I am sorry to hear that you are looking a little sober and show that your heart is considerably filled with anxiety. Can't you lay all burdens of this kind upon our good Lord who delights to bear them for us? Isabella thought you seemed not quite well. Think of the great things a kind Providence is doing for us. Think how He carries us all along in health & prosperity and more than every thing else allows us to be useful - (i.e.) do something for this Kingdom.

You ever Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

A small command and acted under Gen. Grant's orders entirely but the newspapers seem to resound with his famous doings. He even has the credit in some of taking Missionary Ridge which was done by Gen Thomas. But it matters little what individual gets the credit so that our cause triumphs. I cannot, however, withhold my extreme admiration for the man who planned ordered and managed the execution of all these battlements. I mean Gen Grant whom God has given to lead our armies to victory. We are delighted to have our new Qr. Mr. Col. Hayes. His appointment as Captain was first obtained by Otis and now he has got him as Chief Qr. Mr. of this Corps.

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12/17/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-128

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley  
Dec 17 1863

My dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

You will smile at my two story pink sheet [the letter is written on long pink paper]. It is some paper captured and confiscated from a Rebel newspaper Printing office - "The Athens Post". We were glad enough to get back to our old camp and valley yesterday. Troops marched by way of the base and over a portion of the nose of Lookout Mountain - in coming from Chattanooga here. The night before we were at Tyner's Station on the Knoxville & Chattanooga R.R. and the night and day before that were at Cleveland. Thence I sent a letter to you adding a brief P.S. in pencil the morning it left. Now I shall take pleasure in answering the two letters from you which Col. Hiram Hayes brought me there, thus agreeably celebrating the event of his first joining the Corps.

It was the first mail since leaving the north end of Mission Ridge - where when the fight of Sherman in which one of our Brigades was engaged and in which I lament to add poor brave McAloon (formerly of our staff but at that time commanding his Regt.) was mortally wounded. When darkness had closed the fighting that day (Wednesday 25th Nov.) we were chased by a mail. A letter from you mailed the 16th Nov then reached me. From that time no mail nor newspaper save one till last Monday at Cleveland nearly three (3) weeks. Besides the brief letter enclosing Everetts oration at Gettysburg another Nov 29th & 30th when you had them of the battle. You were right in supposing our "Trains would not follow in the rapid pursit of the enemy". My letters will have informed you how we even swung off from our base completely and still managed to supply our troops and to get on as comfortably almost as ever.

The richness of the country we entered when we started for the relief of Burnside is the secret of the facility with which we marched without trains or rations.

Sherman's other troops (from Memphis) however had practiced this mode of living and I am sorry to say had not a very high state of discipline as to the manner or time of supplying themselves with food. They are great thieves. And for a while we feared our troops would imitate them as they did in some instances but Otis diligently and perseveringly strove against all depredations. To aid him a kind Providence allowed us twice to capture large supplies from the Enemy, and what was of scarcely less importance we were suffered to lead the march - so our Commissary had a fair field and they proved themselves unusually active and assiduous in their efforts to get provisions.

We thought you would hardly get the good news before noon of Thanksgiving day. Perhaps it was well that "all felt more like praying than praising."

I did not put Gen. Grant's moral worth too high. So pure, so unselfish, so single-minded a man, it seems to me must have Divine help. And judging therefore from what others who have known him intimately say and from what I have seen (and he does not put a high fence about himself like some of our nabob generals) I can but think he is a God-fearing, Christ trusting man. If not he is the greatest man I ever saw and this is not to imply that he would not be were this condition removed. But I think you will agree with me in believing there is something superhuman in these traits of Character - in so successful and so honored a man.

The letter before me announces the death of Charles Dudley. How bad for his mother & sisters!

Farwell has sent a letter of Blaine's concerning Otis - published in the N.Y. Post - very flattering and kind and connecting him with the 11th Corps as it does, is calculated to do good and I may add is highly gratifying to us all.

Hayes begins well - was glad to bring us his own hands news from his brothers & family. Saw his wife on

his way here - in Indiana I believe. LeDuc falls back to Capt. And will undoubtedly always be a bitter enemy of the Gen'l. He is at Bridgeport.

Gen. Sherman has written Otis one of the warmest letters of commendation and friendly regards I ever saw from one General officer to another. And as Sherman is a rough plain spoken non-flattery man I feel highly delighted; and this with the respect & esteem with which I am confident he is held by Gens. Thomas and Grant compensates for the disappointment which I shared with you in reference to Meade's Report at Gettysburg. Otis always said Meade was jealous of him as <> as if such were the case.

I am happy and I trust thankful that we are dealing with men now who are <superior> to petty jealousy and have motives higher even than self-aggrandizement.

Poor dear Ella working so hard! I wish she had some or one of these dozens of negro women who have followed us from East Tennessee and now neither know what to do nor do we know what to do with them. I did not tell you about eighteen (18) negroes whom I captured and confiscated from a Rebel who was trying to carry them off South and had already got some hundred miles on the route according to a statement I saw in a Rebel paper of the sale of a lot of negroes about that time. These "chattels" were worth on an average \$3,000 apiece. So I "bust up" \$54,000 worth of humanity for that Slave-driver. I sent them all to Chattanooga. It was while we were at Parker's Gap Georgia.

So glad that little David [Rowland & Ella's oldest child, David Patten Howard] remembers me - his "uncle Charley". All I can say is that I believe much prayer both the best remedy for the father's anxiety and the most effective means of securing God's blessing upon the father's efforts in training his little boy - without which blessing all effort will be vain. This may seem only the Commonest thought but it is one that does me good even to repeat. I liked the President's brief address at the Gettysburg Consecration - also the prayer.

Seward's short speech though egotistic has good sound doctrine and well put. You somewhat disgusted me about Everett's oration and besides I have had no time to read till today. So I have not yet finished it. I did have another copy which I gave to (a) Miss (of) Sweetwater. The account of the battles of Gen. Grant in the Gazette I sent you is full of errors. I wrote an acct which I will enclose and which I would like for Mother to see. I regard it as extremely plain and inornate.

Your last letter of Dec. 6th I found waiting us here. Otis & I enjoyed it much. The day it was written however when you supposed we "must be back about Chattanooga" we were at Knoxville. We were amused at your expression Meade's "faint". Don't despond! Old unconditional Grant has I trust been chosen of God and by the Divine blessing will sooner or later prove the downfall of this causeless yet inevitable Rebellion. You are probably correct in your <estimate> of the humility of our people. Can they ever learn it?

Late, Late. Affectionately  
C. H. Howard

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12/20/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-129

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps, [Letterhead]  
Lookout Valley - Dec. 20 1863

My dear Dellie, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I was sorry to learn by a letter from Ella that your health is so poor - and your own letters some of them alluded to the cause for it. If your health is not good and studying makes it worse (as it usually does) I am sure it is better that you suspend awhile - even one season. Perhaps if you remained at home reading a little generally and "choring" about with the diet and care mother could give you, you might get well and rugged by Spring and renew your studies with fresh vigor.

You know I suspended a year after leaving College and many young men find it necessary to do the same. Health first then you can look to studying, earning money or anything you choose - but without health our frail machines are useless and indeed might about as well be destroyed as to get out of "running order".

I sent my last to you from Cleveland - adding a brief Postscript there. Two days after we reached our old camp here - last Thursday afternoon. Next day it became cold and for two nights water has frozen ½ inch thick in our water-pail.

I have a cold - not been sick of it since I went away - but I am improving upon it. How fortunate that we got back before this inclement weather since some of our brigades had no blankets. They left these upon their knapsacks which they left behind in going into Battle and going right in after Bragg so rapidly and suddenly and thence running so directly to the relief of Burnside - they had not time to return for anything - and we suffered greatly for thus coming back from Knoxville. I will enclose Otis' order - Gen. Sherman wrote a letter to Otis, too personal to publish but exceedingly complimentary and gratifying to us both. I sent a copy to Rowland.

Did you see Blaine's from the N.Y. Evening Post. This was also gratifying not only because voluntarily given, but because it connected him with his Corps - and he has always said he wished to rise in face with his command (in reputation) and he never desires to be praised while the Corps gets no credit.

I will send you the N.Y. Herald of the 2nd containing the most correct account of the battles of Chattanooga I have seen. Newspapers had accumulated in our absence. You know we got no mails. Our new Qr Mr. Col. Hayes works admirably. Capt Cross the new aide was an old acquaintance formerly of 5th N.H. & recently of Gen. Caldwell's Staff 2nd Corps.

Today I have been reading <> - writing some letters for Otis - listening to him reading - talking much - sometimes over letters - sometimes about what we had been reading - Everett's Oration at Gettysburg follows Meade's Report very closely and gives less credit to Otis than some of his admirers might desire. Yet it is mainly correct and some parts of it very good though as Rowland says perhaps an ordinary man could have written the great part.

Did you see the Praze by Flockton and the President's brief speech?

I was speaking of today. We had Divine Service this afternoon. It is now late and fully time I were in bed. Trusting the Lord will bless and will guide you as to duty. I will say Good Night.

Your loving brother  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I wish you a merry merry Christmas but this will reach you too late to help the matter, so, hurrah for New Year's! but I will write before.



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12/22/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-130

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley - Dec 22d 1863

My dear Mother

I often write you hurried and I fear very unsatisfactory letters. I keep my own conscience clear by reasoning that if I waited for suitable opportunities always I would not write so frequently and that perhaps it is preferable to have poor letters often rather than have better ones much more seldom.

This afternoon I hope to have leisure to fill my long sheet - a confiscated sheet, by the way, from the office of the "Athens Post" - a Rebel newspaper formerly published at Athens where we spent several pleasant days in East Tennessee. We captured the Editor also and Otis is making the attempt to exchange him for our friend A. D. Richardson Correspondent of the N.Y. Tribune now in Libbey Prison Richmond if alive - captured in trying to run past Vicksburg last Summer.

It is a cloudy day and will probably end in rain. It is I suppose about time for the rainy season. We are fast getting ready for it. The men are at work making "the General" a new log house. They are also making new mess quarters for our little family. We have taken in Col. Hayes now so we have now six members. Colored people accumulated wonderfully in our recent campaign into East Tennessee and we have two colored women (and one of them has two children) in the service of our mess. One is cook - the other - a girl of 16 or 17 - is waitress.

Speaking of mess - I will enumerate the articles of food for dinner today (as far as I remember) that you may know how luxuriantly we fare - notwithstanding the dryness of this Country and the fact that the troops have only 3/4 rations.

The men for a few days had only 1/2 rations of hard-bread. This is owing to the difficulty of transportation from Bridgeport since the boats are employed in carrying food & ammunition to Knoxville - one of the Corps of this army being still up there - and other forces will probably go up to assist in driving Longstreet back to Virginia as (we hear) he has insolently made a halt and refused to go further unless compelled to do so. We would have attended to his case when up there the other day if we had known of this kind of impudence in the face of being driven off out of Tennessee.

But back again to the Hd. qrs. 11th Corps and the dinner. Otis sat at the end - the head of the table. I next on the right, then Col. Hayes, then Lt. Gilbreth, but he was absent today having been sent to Chattanooga on business. Opposite me Capt. Stinson, then Capt. Pearson.

Roast Beef, Potatoes (fried), <onions>, Corn-cake (warm).  
Dried-apple sauce, Butter, Dried-apple Pie with Coffee, Milk and Sugar included.

Our Mess-man who is a German spends the most of his time in roaming over the country "foraging" as we call it - getting articles of food. He came in late last night while Capt Stinson and I were taking our supper and soon a plate of fresh butter appeared. We had been destitute of this luxury for two or three meals. He generally has two or three chickens tied to his saddle when he returns. So you observe how it is that "the General's mess" (or "Mess No. 1" as it is called in distinction from "Mess No. 2" and "Mess No. 3" at these Hd. qrs.) How it is that we live so high and without infringing upon the short rations of the soldiers. It is safer for our Mess-man to "forage" now than it was when the Rebels infested our immediate neighborhood. I don't know as there is a Rebel within twenty miles of here.

Otis has thought some of a Leave, but thinks it best not to go way at present. A new Divn is to be added to the Corps and we are in hopes that Gen. Hooker will be sent somewhere else. It is troublesome to have our Hd. qrs. between us and the Department. I mean in the way of business. Besides an Army Corps is complete in itself and it is irksome to have a third party giving orders and attending to matters which we could just as well request ourselves.

Our health is good. Our location healthy though many of the men got sick in our last seven campaigns. They were many of them destitute of blankets; none of them had Tents; Clothing rather poor; shoes wanting and bad; rations irregular & badly cooked - on the march so constantly.

No change of clothes and hardly time to wash what they had for a month.

The magnificent Fairs for the Sanitary Commission in the West will do much good - \$75,000 were raised at Chicago! I have had letters from Uncle Henry and from Lizzie Strickland. I lost a little memorandum book when I went down to Bridgeport before the battle - and it contained that paper father prepared for me - stating the Condition of my money accounts &c. I am sorry to trouble father to make another. But should like one giving the state of my finances at the End of the year.

Did you ever know any one besides me that could not tell when to bring a letter to an end?

I was sorry to hear Dellie's health is not good. I have written him upon the subject. He need not feel very discouraged I think since my health was poor for a while just after graduating but is now very sound and good. You and father are having cozy times alone at home. Hope you are not lonesome.

How thankful we have reason to be that the war is so far from our own sacred homes!

How agonized I should be to believe an army either hostile or friendly were encamped near my father's farm or upon it and my unprotected mother were exposed to all the trials incident to the presence of an Army. To say every article of comfort which has been added to the commissaries stock in the course of years would all, likely, vanish in a day and night. But the Lord is plenteous in mercy & goodness toward us and ours.

Your Very Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

Wednesday Dec 23 (1863)

P.S. Too late for me to talk to you about "Merry Christmas" though not too late for me to wish it in my heart.

I will skip to New Years "A happy! happy! New Year!" to you my mother - to father and all my friends who read this. May this year see the dawn of peace in our distracted Country! And may you all so share Heaven's protection and blessing as to enjoy that blissful time and aid in sending up to our Merciful and Almighty Father pleas of true praise and thanksgiving.

Otis says he proposes to write you tonight - accept the enclosed New Year's gift - a rather ordinary likeness of our beloved President - but the only kind of Present I can procure out here in the field.

Love to Dellie & Father  
From your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

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12/31/1863

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-162

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley Tenn

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley - Dec. 31 1863  
11 ½ P.M.

My dear Mother

I would like to transcribe for you my exact feelings and circumstances tonight - for they are altogether such that if you were to know them accurately you would certainly be relieved from all anxiety on my account - and more - for finding that I am actually contented and in good spirits and I might add the same of Otis and that our health is good - this goodness of God will I trust make you happy.

I am sitting in Otis' tent by the same table with him. He is writing to Lizzie. It is almost midnight - the last day of 1863. I shall not attempt to review in this letter my life during the eventful year now so near its close. It is too crowded with momentous events. One year ago I was in our Camp of 2nd Divn 2nd Corps near Falmouth Va - Maj. Whittlesey was with us. Sometimes I fear we do not love God and think of Him so much now since we have come to this Corps - but I hope it is not so - And certainly He has manifested His goodness no less abundantly to us since we have been here.

I chose this paper because I have been writing upon it quite steadily all day and I wished to tell you that I have just completed twenty six pages of this kind - a kind of recreation - a sketch of Otis' life which I have prepared for publication in accordance with the solicitation of a young man - an artist whose acquaintance I formed here recently. If the sketch is published I will send you a copy.

You will not be surprised if my handwriting shows marks of weariness of fingers - or if my fingers make marks indicative of weariness or indeed of my weariness of fingers make illegible marks. But I ought to be more serious as the old year is dying.

Otis has just read me a more moralizing strain from his letter to Lizzie - but still he makes the old year only going off to other parts unknown - speaks of him as having his hat on - stick in hand I think and I am sure he ought to have said over-coat on for surely the old man will freeze without one tonight.

It has been raining hard all day - but this evening has grown cold and probably it will be clear tomorrow. If it is I think I will visit Lookout Point and perhaps get a picture taken if the ambrotypist still remains up there in his Eyrie. wouldn't you like such a trophy from Lookout better than a piece of stone or Laurel root such as I sent Ella?

I will look for some more smashed bullets from the battle-ground upon the sides of the mountain, if I go up. For several days - perhaps a week - I have done no riding and I fear my health will suffer if I continue so physically inactive - especially if I eat so much. By the way it may interest you as it is no small matter of congratulation with us that a new installment of provisions for our mess arrived from Nashville today - the first since our return from Knoxville. We will have a grand supper tomorrow - New Years.

Otis shows me his writing - it looks remarkably well. He improves. He looks at his watch - "three minutes of twelve" - I just heard Capt Stinson say (outside) something about snow. It would be a wonder if we have some snow here for New Years morning. It is cold enough for it. We do not feel much like hastening to bed to allow our fires to go out tonight. I must not omit to mention that Otis has a fine large new log cabin - and today for the 3d time a Chimney was completed in it and to our intense satisfaction (and you may accredit some of my jubilant spirits to the fact) this chimney does not smoke! That is to say the smoke all goes up chimney and a first rate draft makes a glowing not to say a glorious fire in the broad stone fire-place.

I suppose the old year 1863 has gone - strange he did not interrupt me to say farewell. Perhaps he thought it would make me sad to have a formal parting and that it was better for me to keep cheerful.

Just now some members of the Staff who have been so intemperate as to sit up to this late - no this Early

hour began to start the refrain of "Happy New Year". "The General" took it up and so I was compelled to leave my letter and go to the door to have my say in the matter - and one or two of these young men will be happy if my Early wish has any potency. Well, then, I must redate my letter.

Lookout Valley - Jan. 1st 1864 - 12 1/4 A.M.

Two years ago about this minute I was listening to delicious music from our old 64th N.Y. Band which came to serenade "the General" (Otis) in our old Camp California - Gen. Sumner's Corps near Alexandria Va.

I have been assisting Otis in making out his Report of recent operations - battles, &c - this has aided in keeping me confined to Hd. qrs.

We think of wanting Uncle Henry Strickland [husband of Mary Jane Otis, the sister of Charles' mother] to come and make us a visit. I will enclose some Laurel leaves from the summit of Lookout.

There seems no immediate prospect of movements though we will not probably wait till Spring. Otis has ended (just now) his letter and my space warns me to close. I am sorry not to get more letters from you. Otis from the door says "Maine has come to us." He just wished the Sentinel (poor fellow) who walks his post a dark two hours at a time - a "happy new year". Otis wishes "You, Mother, a happy new year, ditto to father, and for me to tell you that he is going to do better this year. Did you get his long letter written a few evenings since?

Love and the happiest of New Years to you & father and to Dellie from  
Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I found the pocket book lost at Bridgeport - and father's memorandum.

P.S. New Year's Morning 9 1/2 A.M. It is the coldest morning we have had - just enough snow for a frosting of the surfaces. Ink frozen. But we slept tolerably comfortable with robes & blankets. All well.  
C.H.H.

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1/4/1864      *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-134

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley [Tenn]

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Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley - Jan. 4 1864

My dear brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

I have just come into Otis' tent chiefly because he has so much better fire-place and fire than I have in mine. I find Otis writing to Grace making drawings of tents &c. She writes him often now-a-days and good letter - only 6 years old.

There were some questions in your last which I did not answer in my letter written after its arrival. I had I think answered them before. Was Otis under Hooker at all? No. The first two days of the Battle we rec'd orders direct from Thomas or Grant. The third day as well as on the pursuit of Bragg and the Campaign against Longstreet our orders came from Sherman direct. This arrangement of having a "Head Quarters 11th and 12th Corps" through which all our papers have to pass is a great bother and hindrance. If the President or Secretary of War calls to see you I wish you would say to them - that if there is a pressing need of Hooker & Butterfield anywhere else - they can be dispensed with here. The contrivance of connecting the two Corps as a Command was only gotten up to give Hooker a place!

You ask "Where was Slocum?" He will not have anything to do with Hooker - when he can help it. So he remained up on the line of the Nashville Rail Road & is there still with one of his Div'ns while the other accompanied us to Lookout Valley - and it was this Div'n (Geary's) as you have probably seen which took the lead in taking Lookout Mountain. Lest one section should get too much glory & the rest grow envious - it happened providentially that one (Stanley's) of Thomas' and one of Sherman's Div'ns also cooperated in taking the mountain. Geary had the initiative. I think he will be made a Maj. Gen. He used to be Governor of Kansas.

Geary has gone back upon the R.R. with Slocum with what of his Div'n remains after the reenlistment and furloughing of the "Veterans". His Div'n almost went en masse - only 3 Regts left in camp. A Div'n comes to our Corps to take Geary's place. Will probably be commanded by Steadman! Brig. Gen. But expecting to be promoted soon. Distinguished at the Chickamauga Battle. Some what of a politician. He was a member of the famous Charles S.C. Convention. [This might be a reference to the National Democratic Convention, held in Charleston, S.C. prior to the 1860 election, which split the party into Northern and Southern factions, perhaps enabling Abraham Lincoln in the Republican party to win.] But he is said to be a good deal of a soldier - uncompromising in matters of duty.

You inquire whether the 11th Corps was fully engaged at any time? It was not. Its skirmishers were briskly engaged along the whole line the first day. Afterwards only partially. The 1st Brigade 2nd Div'n (Steinweher's) commanded by Col Buschbeck was thoroughly engaged and with great loss while operating with Sherman in his assault upon Tunnel Hill on North End of Mission Ridge.

Mail has just come - a letter from Lizzie for Otis - nothing for me. I believe it is a fortnight since I got any letter - at least any that was good for anything. Some trivial business letter is only an aggravation.

I wonder what has become of Mother & Dellie. The former has only written us one letter I believe since we came West. And Dellie has not written or at least I have got no letter from him for upwards of a month. Your last is dated Dec 12th - not quite a month since it was written & I am in hopes there are one or two on the way which will reach me before the remaining 8 days expire. Shank's account of the Battle which you saw in the Herald & which continued the amusing expression "the princely Howard" was the best account written I think.

I wrote a hasty sketch for the Cincinnati Gazette. Dell. Takes the Weekly which may possibly contain it.

How comes off the Draft? One of our Chaplains spent some portion of yesterday (Sabbath, poor fellow) in trying to hunt up a few Lord crackers to stay his stomach! He preached for us in this big log cabin - to

all Head quarters - in the evening. He was telling us afterward how that he had been almost starved and the men of his Regt. ditto - two days without bread. This means little when (as at home) one has enough else, but here it means pretty nearly starvation. Supplies still come hard. The one single Rail Road is not sufficient. Sometimes the poor mules & horses starve and sometimes the men. No wonder the "veterans" flock in - to have a chance to go home for a month. Our 1st Regt. (73d Ohio) went today. Gave the Gen'l (Otis) three no six cheers as they passed. Chaplain Fletcher gave us a written homily. I wished he had given us a plain, pointed & earnest talk. Oh when I listen to some of our Chaplains, sometimes I am so foolish as to think I ought to be a preacher. The Lord will direct. His will be done.

Love to Ella & <Dadis> darling.

From Your Affectionate br  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I have been assisting Otis about his Report - quite lengthy. I have also written a sketch of his life of 26 foolscap pages completed since Christmas. Otis has been occupied somewhat in writing autographs for Sanitary Fairs, &c. C.H.H.

It has been very cold for 3 or 4 days. It is now warmer & rainy!

No signs of any immediate movement. I wish I could have a Leave and see some of my friends from far off home. We have not got any pay for two months - nothing - since our return from Knoxville. Hoping for some soon. How is Sarah? Give her my love. C.H.H.

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1/4/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-135

Hd. Qrs 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

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Hd. Qrs 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley Jan. 4, 1864

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

Your letters came so in a bunch what few there were of them owing to my long absence from any mail-route in the campaign to Knoxville that I fear I did not properly answer them. So I have just now reread them all (4) and will touch upon a few points suggested thereby.

Let me preface, however, that the last letter I rec'd from you was written at Leeds 29th November! More than a month ago!!

Today I got a receipt for the Weekly Gazette (Cincinnati) for one year sent to your address. It seems that you had previously subscribed for 6 months - so now your subscription stands to May 17 1865. But as I desired "The Gazette" should come to you as a present from me I inclose \$1.00 - the am't you had paid.

I am always glad to have you mention the date of my last letters rec'd and the place where written if on the march. You are good about this and it is quite a satisfaction to be able "to keep my reckoning" so well

Your Thanksgiving description was amusing - I suppose Uncle Ensign [Otis] and father continued talking about Rail Road as long as they were together and after they parted, pondered upon the same.

Did you go to Washington? You <must> think this a needless question but remember you might have gone there and back eight (8) times since I heard from you.

You wrote quite freely about your pressure in money matters. Do not allow yourself to get into anxiety in regard to these things. Keep a cheerful heart and watch for opportunities - ready to seize upon such chances as Providence shall open for you. Many young men have worked their own way and it has usually if not unexceptionally proved the better for them. You saw that extract from Parten's life of Butler (Benj.) which was in the newspapers. I thought of sending it to you but believe I did not. It was in the Lewiston paper however - a copy sent Capt. Stinson.

I would not for the world have you copy the ignoble points of Butler's Character as a lawyer. But his life furnishes one of many instances on record of men who have literally worked their own way up in the world. And they came up and came forward strong and bold and well furnished to engage in life's battles.

You speak of writing to Uncle Henry [Strickland]. Entre nous Uncle H. is not a man I would like to have much to do with unless I was completely and acknowledgedly on a par with him. To be associated with him and their way of asking a favor might not prove agreeable.

Still it would do no harm to ask him whether he knew of any openings where you could earn something - if you choose. I think he spoke of you studying law in the West and said that he was of opinion - if you were to practice in the West it would be by all means better for you to study in the West. Probably this is a correct opinion.

You spoke of studying fewer hours - I hope you will do so i.e. that you will on no account in your present state of health study many hours. Take every opportunity for physical exercise; - bear it in mind and jump at the chance of some running, walking, working of any kind. If you had a horse and would ride up home once or twice per week horseback, you would get well and strong as a bull or your brother Charles.

Have they a gymnasium at Auburn or Lewiston. A man that studies must go into the matter of bodily exercise as a disagreeable duty if he cannot make it a pleasant pastime.

Pulsifer will remember how he and I used to persevere in pitching quoites - I was always pleased to find

anyone whose zeal for exercise would serve as a stimulus to mine and who would aid me in inventing modes & methods and objects upon which to expend it - ask Pulsifer whether the recollections of Kent's Hill have become very dim. I suppose all his past life is cast into the shadow in the glow (I had almost said glory) and radiance of his recent connubial joys.

The supper bell rings. It is cold & rainy & we have had 3 or 4 days of regular zero weather. The Louisville Journal of 31st Dec speaks of sleighing in that quarter. Do you have any? The last paper I had seen until this afternoon was 28th Dec. You see how out of the world we are. We still have difficulty to get supplies. I took a long walk on the frozen ground in the dark & storm last night after the Sabbath Evening Religious Services - to give orders for ten boxes of hard-bread to be turned over from a certain Brigade Commissary who had them to another who had none. 3 Regts had been 2 days without bread and yesterday had almost nothing.

It is expected another boat will be in soon. Two of these here are carrying some provisions to Knoxville. The Alabama & Tennessee R.R. is expected soon to be complete. Then we will be connected with Nashville by two lines as the Memphis & Charleston R.R. will connect the former with Stevenson & Bridgeport.

Capt. Stinson is going to write for John Adams to come out here as Clerk either for Col. Hayes Qr. Mr. or Col. Balloch C.S. If he comes you can send a letter or any little package if you or mother desire.

I have written a letter to go tomorrow for the "Press". Have you ever seen an acct. of the East Tenn. Campaign from my pen in that paper? And did you ever see my account of the Night Engagement in Lookout Valley? I have written somewhat for the Gazette. How does the Portland Press pay? Are there two men engaged in it now? Does it pay better than any other paper in service?

I have just written to Mother & will write to her again soon. Please answer carefully these questions about the Press. Find out if it would be a tolerable investment without disclosing the object of your inquiry. Please remember me to Mr. Libbey (of Auburn Banks). Please see him, also Mrs. Libbey & Miss Stetson at the Hotel.

Your Affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard

Monday Evening  
Lookout Valley - Jan 4 1864

P.S. The thought has occurred to me tonight that perhaps it would be a good thing for you one of these days to go into one of the great Cities to study law. You must if possible bring into your course of study a term or two at a law school. But I was thinking of Judge Lothrop of New York. Why would not his office be a good one if he would like to have you come and you decide to go to New York?

I only propose this for your consideration - not for any immediate action.

Adams entre nous will have about \$75 per month. You might have had such a place as this at any time but for the objection for the General (Otis) in having a brother as a Clerk for one of his Department Officers. The Clerks are often comparatively inferior in education, capabilities &c but not always. The position, however, is an inferior one in comparison to that of a Commissioned Officer and although this does not satisfactorily explain it - still you will perceive the nature of the objections to your having the place of Department Clerk either for Quarter Master or Commissary.

I think it is a great source of comfort to Mother & father to have you near home. Write often to yr. loving br.  
C.H.H.

I hear tonight that I have been appointed Acting Inspector General in the absence of Lt. Col. Asmussen who has gone on Leave. C.H.H.



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1/17/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-136

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Lookout Valley [Tenn]

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Department of the Cumberland [Letterhead]

Lookout Valley - January 17th 1864

My dear Mother,

Need I say I was happy to get a letter from you today. The 2nd since we came West. You mention one which has certainly missed me written after you heard of my going to Knoxville. The letter you mention from me as mailed at Cincinnati was the one I sent from Knoxville - carried through by Couriers. Laura's letter was enclosed and I handed it to Otis. We can ascertain the name of the Commander of the 44th Indiana Regt. easily but how to identify the person referred to by Laura it is difficult to tell.

Your welcome proposition to come West has occupied my thoughts mostly since reading your letter. I have consulted with Otis about it and he tells me to say that one or both of us will meet you at Uncle Henry's. It would be better however to come on as early in the month of April as possible. For our Winter here will not be long - not even so long as at Richmond Ind. and active operations will require our presence - so that if we could get away at all after they commence it would be but for a short time. We feel pretty certain of lying still throughout February though even while at Washington you will remember that in the Spring of '62 we moved the first of March. The 8th of March we were campaigning I am sure. I think you will get this before February and it would be best to start as soon thereafter as you can get ready.

If Dellie comes with you as I supposed was the plan as probably father would think both you & he ought not to be away from home so long at the same time he will have no difficulty in following the best route and keeping you comfortable all the way. The Western Road from Boston I think it is called taking the cars at Worcester Depot for Albany - thence to Crest-line some 250 miles without change of cars - thence to go to Richmond Ind. I think the best route is direct to Columbus Ohio & then you go right out on the R.R. we came West on to Richmond, only a few hours ride. I think you would in this way only change cars at Boston, Albany, Crest-line and Columbus. You can buy through tickets probably to Columbus as you can for Nashville in Boston and have your baggage checked all the way through to Columbus & perhaps to Richmond itself. Lieut. Gilbreth came out from Augusta this route to Crest-line and says it is far better than any other. You better write me a few words on the receipt of this or get Dellie so that I may know the plan and prepare to do my part.

Otis seems to be very favorable to your coming out. Nothing will please Aunt Martha Jane more. I was glad you gave so particular a description of my letters. It seems none of mine have been lost and I trust yours to me will soon turn up as having been miscarried by boat to Knoxville past here as has occurred twice. We had a good meeting in Otis' tent tonight - a short extemporaneous lecture from one of the Chaplains. Hoping to see you & Dellie if this is the plan. I will close. It will do Dellie good to come West & I should not think of your coming alone. I am sorry to learn father has such a bad cold. I too have been troubled more or less with a cold ever since I went to Bridgeport & came back by boat in the night - before the battle - about 2 months ago.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I have sent for Father's care and to invest for me \$250. Has it been received by Draft in letter.  
C.H.H.

Fare from Boston to Chicago - through ticket - is \$20 only I believe.

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1/25/1864      *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-137

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley

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Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley  
January 25 1864

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I am in hopes you will be on your way West with mother before this reaches Maine to meet me at Uncle Henry's at Richmond, Ind. But lest by any chance you should not start so soon I will write. I expect to leave here by the first of February. It will take about three days to get to Richmond I suppose as I must stop a little in Louisville to get some clothing.

Your letter came day before yesterday (Saturday) with one from Rowland. Yours was written just after your visit to Leeds and contained some acct. of the <Levee> very interesting to me. Though you can't find any "inspiration" in writing to me now so completely cut off from not only home but the whole state and even New England. However I should never have thought of your non-inspiration had you not mentioned it as you had till then penned a very interesting epistle. Finished Kent! How much of it have you made your own for life? I have always heard law students talk about Kent and known it as a law book but Parsons (I think it was) on contracts I am not so familiar with in name.

Douglass of my class at Bangor is here in this very tent now. Came up from Bridgeport last Saturday. Has been connected with the Christian Commission for some three months. He will spend some weeks here. We had a meeting in my office (Inspector Gen'l Office) last evening. Called in the guard and other men & servants of Hd. Qrs. Gen'l Officers. So had my big "Hospital tent" full.

Just been up to my Breakfast. My appetite none the best now but improving. Our diet very limited. I look forward with great pleasure to a short trip into the civilized world - not to estimate the delight of meeting mother & brother.

Otis is by this time in Philadelphia. Hope poor <Marin> will be able to see & talk with him. You mention a letter of mine in the Press but do not define it so that I can tell what one you refer to. I get the Weekly Press regularly now - quite <a deal>. They sent it of their own accord. How much it has been enlarged - but the matter is not half so interesting as it might be. I wish they would copy after the Springfield Republican which is the best paper in N.E.

Who has Mr. Gilman with him now? I have just talked with Lt. Gilbreth about the trip & time he took in coming from Boston to Louisville. He says it took him from 4 P.M Friday till 7 Saturday to reach Indianapolis. So you can come from Boston to Richmond Ind in 24 hours if you choose. He took the route I indicated in my former letter to Mother - Boston to Albany - thence to Syracuse, Rochester &c along the lakes to Cleveland - thence to Crestline - and you would keep right on to Columbus whereas he went thence straight to Indianapolis. From Columbus you go via Dayton, a few hours ride to Richmond.

I am going to visit the summit of Lookout today - for the third time - going more particularly to accompany Douglass.

I just hear of the death of one of our highly valued clerks McCaulay - a fine fellow - educated - modest, dutiful - God give him a better home in Heaven than he enjoyed while here!

My time is up. You better take notes of news & items for me for I shall pester you with questions when I see you. Father can use the \$50 I sent last (with 250 in all) - if he needs it for you & mother.

Your Affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard

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2/11/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-138

Richmond, Indiana

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Richmond, Indiana  
Feb 11th 1864

My dear brother [This was written to Dellie. Someone had written in Rowland, but the text of the letter indicates otherwise]

I got a good long letter from you just before I left Lookout Valley. I reached here last Saturday night. Found Uncle & family well. I have just taken a ride in a Buggy with Uncle Henry & he has brought to his flour mill where I am writing in his office. Your letter is at the house & I may not touch upon all the points but if I do not I will of course future time.

A letter from Otis today from Augusta said mother had about concluded to come out with him and that he should start Feb. 12th Friday - that will be tomorrow.

I am sorry you could not come and I still fear something will occur to prevent mother. Uncle & Aunt are much pleased that mother is coming out.

I have thought much about your affairs and looked for any opening. I had often thought of the place of Paymaster's Clerk but thought it would not suit you very well. There is a good deal of confinement. You need to be very careful in figures and a good Penman. I had thought of trying to get you a place with Major Kobie who has been recently at Boston. He owes his appointment in some extent to Otis, but he has his own friends to attend to. Frank Gilman has been with him & you know he is a clerk of some experience.

If you can get the place of clerk to a Commissary anywhere it will do very well. I think in a few weeks you could learn the business so as to do very well. You would be obliged to cultivate a clerk's handwriting - be very particular and exact. But in the course of six months or a year you could so acquaint yourself with the business as to be eligible to the appointment of Commissary with rank of Captain. That would give you good pay and a worthy position upon the Brigade Staff.

The trouble is I do not know any opening for you & you must look for yourself. I should advise you to come to our Corps for the reason I have given.

You may not fully appreciate them, but you can then take my judgement & feeling in the matter. I should not care about your ever becoming a Qr. Mr. for you would not like it & the responsibility is very great as a Brigade Commissary has the responsibility of feeding the entire command could rest upon you. You give heavy <based> & have the handling of considerable public money. The only condition upon which I would consent to your taking the latter place would be that you first serve as clerk until you thoroughly understand the business & can give satisfaction to your commanding officer.

This is what Daniel Howard has done. Otis added his name to a recommendation furnished by the Commissary under whose employ he had been in Kentucky. I do not know whether he was successful in getting the appointment.

You seem to feel rather badly about your poverty &c. but believe me it will be the making of you as it has been of thousands of young men to work your own way against all obstacles & difficulties. I am very desirous to help you in every way but still desire you to feel independent and be so and to develop all the energies you are capable of.

I talk of making a brief visit to Chicago before Otis reaches here. I hope to have my leave extended beyond his as I did not come away for 10 days after him but mine is identical with his & perhaps I cannot stay behind. Write me here (care C. H. Strickland, Esq). And Mother will get it if I do not and it will be forwarded to me. Lizzie Strickland is at Chicago. Trusting that Providence will guide you in all matters for your <> good.

Affectionately,  
C. H. Howard

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2/16/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-139

Chicago, Illinois

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Chicago, Ill.  
Feb. 16, 1864

My Dear Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I wrote Rowland from this city Sunday last. I came up Friday night mainly to see Chicago, secondarily to see Lizzie Strickland [a first cousin] who is going to accompany me back to Richmond tonight. I am expecting to meet Otis & mother there. If they started last Friday as Otis wrote they probably would - they might spend the Sabbath at Philadelphia and reach Richmond Ind. Tonight.

It is a bitterly cold morning. The thermometer must be below zero and the wind blows strongly from the lake. The lake is a great feature here. You can look out upon its grand expanse from every part of the city. The country about Chicago is a vast prairie. Nothing in the scenery attractive except this grand lake. Last night I attended a Concert by the Philharmonic Society of Chicago. The music mostly instrumental and of German character. Some of it very fine. But the great fascination of the evening was the singing by <Molle> Castri whom I had also heard Saturday night at the Opera. Last night she sang most exquisitely and deliciously. Was advertised for two performances but was "encored" each time and then sang some familiar and beautiful pieces with merely a piano accompaniment. The last time she sang "The Last Rose of Summer." Her voice is clear and musical as a bird's - in fact it seems much like some delightful songster of the forest at times. I had with me a married lady & little daughter - the latter's name is Ella & she is very pretty. I had met her father Mr. Wade in Richmond last Fall.

Yesterday morning I "went on change" as the merchants say - i.e. went to the daily meeting of the Board of Trade, where the merchants all meet to talk over business - keep posted on the market prices, trade in all sorts of goods &c &c. They come to order (in their large hall) and listen to the summary of the doings of the Board of Trade in N.Y. which come by telegraph & thus learn the state of the N.Y. market before adjourning. It was all a novelty to me & I am going down today to meet Mr. Wade & S. P. Lunt there. The latter was a school-mate with Rowland & me at Yarmouth & Kents Hill. I took tea with him last evening. He has got rich and lives in good style on Wabash Avenue. Has a wife & two little children. He knows Ella (& sisters) well or did formerly as he is from Bowdoinham. He has been in business with an Elder brother (Arrington Lunt) who has now retired having become quite wealthy & being pretty well advanced in years. They lost their father & mother recently & both attended the funeral at B.

This morning Mr. Stephen P Lunt called at 9 ½ & went with me to see a "Grain-Elevator" - an institution peculiar to Chicago I believe. At least there are comparatively few elsewhere. This one I saw had two large steam engines. They are used for elevating grain so as to ship it with greater facility. They are in or I may say consist of a large warehouse very high. The grain is transferred from the cars into large "Hoppers" and is elevated by the same mechanism that is used for carrying meal or flour from the store in the mills to the bay where it is shoveled into the bags. But the bands and <scoups> attached thereto are a foot or two broad and the latter 6 or 8 inches deep so they take it up very rapidly. I cannot give you a very clear notion of the manner of transferring great cargoes of grain from cars to boats. Generally great amounts are stored in these elevators & the owners leave it there until they sell it. Then it runs down a hopper by force of gravitation and a large cargo is loaded in two or three hours. Mr. Lunt has a comparatively small elevator & he has handled some six millions bushels of grain during the past year. This gives you some idea of the amount of business done.

I visited Douglass' grove yesterday & camp D. where between 5 & 6 thousand Rebel prisoners are kept [the camp was known as the North's Andersonville and held over 12,000 prisoners in December 1864]. About 3 miles out South on the shore of the lake.

At 9 P.M. this evening I start for R. with Lizzie. Hope to visit mother. I hope to spend a week or more with her there. I am stopping at the Richmond House - European plan. Write me soon.

Your Affectionate Brother,  
C. H. Howard



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2/27/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-140

Nashville, Tenn.

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Nashville, Tenn.  
Feb 27 1864, Saturday

My dear Mother

I reached this city at about 5 P.M. yesterday. Soon after my arrival I met with Mr. Smith of the Christian Commission who gave me an urgent invitation to make my home at his house while I remained. He went and got my baggage at the hotel and after telegraphing to Otis I went to Mr. Smith's. His wife and family are with him and they keep a kind of Head quarters for all the C. C. delegates passing through or stopping in Nashville.

After supper I went with Mr. S. & wife to a soldier's prayer-meeting. The house was crowded. The meeting was conducted by Col. Doolittle of the 18th Michigan Regiment. It seemed like the daily prayer-meetings of '57 & '58 or such as I have since attended in New York City. The prayers and speaking both earnest and brief - to the point. Fourteen soldiers requested prayers. There are many cases of religious awakening and conversion in connection with this meeting. I enjoyed the meeting much. The singing was good. Soon after we got home I found myself ready for bed - having spent the previous night upon the cars in a sitting posture.

I had a pleasant chat with Rev. Mr. Wakefield & Mrs. Jackson for the first 15 miles of my journey from Richmond. At Indianapolis I did some shopping but the time hung a little heavily until the R.R. train started at 9 P.M. Reached Jeffersonville at 3 A.M. Crossed the Ferry & went to National Hotel at Louisville, arriving about 5 A.M. As soon as I could get ready and get my Breakfast it was time to start for the R.R. train for Nashville.

There was a great rush for the cars and extreme difficulty in procuring a ticket. One officer paid for two tickets & could get but one - so got into a quarrel with the Ticket-agent. By dint of muscle and perseverance I got my ticket in time and by similar means with the addition of sufficient "brass" succeeded in getting into the cars. Scores of men failed to get on board of that train. There was not room for any more, but I got a good seat and found just after entering the car Major Osborne of our staff Chief of Artillery, with his brother a Baptist Clergyman from St. Louis.

So you observe I had company in my all-day ride to Nashville. I need not say that I had a refreshing night's sleep last night.

Please tell Lizzie that I looked up Mr. Reed this morning. Had considerable difficulty in finding him as he had changed his place. After searching in half a dozen streets, I succeeded in finding a gentleman who gave me the right directions and I soon found him. He is well and seemed glad to hear from home. The Government needed the building he had occupied so he was obliged to relinquish it and is not so favorably located now for business.

I am going to call on Gen Underwood this morning. I hear he is not so well and I greatly fear he will never recover. Col. Meysenburg, Otis' Asst. Adjutant Gen'l, went through here yesterday evening with Maj. Hoffman our engineer - both on leave. I did not see them. I find that all the forces at and above Chattanooga were in the late advance. They had considerable fighting - one of Ward's brigades has gone down from here to our Corps. The other follows soon. I am quite certain that none of our troops were in this advance.

Give much love to all at Uncle Henry's. I never shall forget my delightful visit there. I hope between you all there will be a letter on the way for me before this reaches you.

Maj. Osborne saw Col. Meysenburg so I should have heard had there been anything remarkable at our Hd. qrs. I have no doubt Otis is well. It is warmer here than it was at R. the day I left - overcoat is burdensome. Trusting this will find you well & happy.

Yr. Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard





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2/28/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-141

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn. Feb. 28 1864

My dear Mother

I will scribble a few lines to go in today's mail. I have been here about two hours. Found the General & Capt. Stinson waiting me at the station with my horse - all in good condition & spirits.

The weather is warm & pleasant. I sit with cabin door open. The sun is a little too burning for comfort. They have had scarcely any rain here since I left. Otis has heard twice from home. Last time all well.

None of our troops in the late advance. Those who did go seem to have met with little too warm a reception for comfort and have retired several miles.

Sherman's adjutant General, Maj. Lawyer, came down to Stevenson on the cars with me. He is "running the department" of Huntsville - The Department of the Tennessee. He had heard from Gen. S. since he reached Meridian. Says the newspaper reports are substantially correct. He is destroying everything before him & behind and may perhaps strike at Montgomery but his final destination is some point on the Gulf - probably Mobile whence he can again draw supplies.

The only fear is that should he have a great battle his ammunition might give out. He has cut Polk's Army in two. The people are fleeing Eastward in great consternation. The movement has been so rapid, so bold and vigorous as to completely surprise the Rebel authorities thus far - but I have my fears for Sherman's small army. Maj. Lawyer said Gen. Sherman desired much to have the 11th Corps. He wishes it attached to his Department if Gen. Howard continues to command it.

My welcome here - home again - was all that I could wish & I do feel contented & happy as though I had got to my post of duty. There have been a few improvements. Our mess tent or Cabin has been reconstructed - larger than it was. I had a good appetite for a good Breakfast which was waiting me. The rest had kindly deferred their Breakfast till I arrived - about 9 o'clock.

I found Gen. Underwood a little better yesterday but his case is critical. Mrs. Tenney will be interested to hear from Gen. Underwood. His wife is in good spirits. I hope soon to have a letter from you & Lizzie & perhaps the rest will contribute especially Cousin Carrie. Tell her I have had a glance at some of my choice little-girl photographs since I got here. I prize some of them highly.

I have not time for a longer letter. Give love to all & a large reserve for yourself.

From Yr. Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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3/1/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-142

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

Richmond, Indiana

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.  
Mar. 1 1864

(Private)

My dear Mother

It is a rainy day and I have been writing all the forenoon in Otis' cabin answering letters - some for Otis and some of my own accumulated in my absence. I shall go to Chattanooga soon as we have a fair day & hope to get my pay for February. Otis is reading a letter from home just received - two from Lizzie - one as late as 24th from Augusta.

We are both in good health & spirits. Otis thinks in reference to the Will that you had better take a copy of it to show to father as soon as you get home. We do not like the idea of your keeping anything from him and I agree with Otis in his opinion. To be sure it would work no harm to anyone yet it is not well that there be anything separate and uncommunicated between man and wife. There was good reason for your making the will which you had me to assist and we both had the leisure to attend to it. Besides I desire to have my property thus disposed of in case it fell to you.

All things work harmoniously out here. I get nothing from the front or from Sherman. Our first Div'n (Gen Ward) is on the march from Nashville.

Give love to all at Uncle Henry's. I found a letter here from <Cattie> written before I went away. Lizzie describes Burnside's visit to Augusta. Otis says he is very glad I came back so promptly as he was beginning to get lonely. I spend most of my time reading or talking in his cabin.

I shall write to Lizzie soon. The mail goes.

Your Loving Son  
C. H. Howard

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3/4/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* A. S. Packard

CHH-143

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn

Bowdoin College, Brunswick,  
Me

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Lookout Valley, Tenn, Mar. 4, 1864

Professor Packard,  
My dear Sir:

On returning to Hd. qrs. after an absence of twenty-five days I found your letter of 15th ult. It would give me great pleasure to make any contribution of value to the Maine Historical Society. Gen. Howard joins me in thanks for your reminder to us both in this matter.

I have an old Life of Washington which I hardly deem worth the sending. I procured it from an aged Baptist Clergyman (about 81 years old). He lives at Tyner's Station on the East Tenn. R.R. about ten miles from Chattanooga. We found the old gentleman and his wife in very destitute circumstances having been plundered both by the Rebel Army and afterwards by the U.S. forces.

But as we had no tents and it was raining and this house was located conveniently to our troops, besides, (a consideration that often has weight with the General) knowing that anything the old gentleman might have left would by this means be better protected. General Howard made his Hd. qrs. at his house. The General conversed freely with his host. Found that he had in a measure drifted with the current and yet it was truly refreshing to find that there was deep down in his heart as if ineradicably rooted there a love of his country - the United States of America - a reverence for the old constitution and an irrepressible longing for the reestablishment of the old government.

Literature was not very abundant in the old parson's house. He had been cooped up in the Confederacy and his books were mostly of a very old date. I found this Life of Washington and perceiving it was one I had never before seen began to read. Its quaint style and the heartiness of the author interested me and I read in the intervals of duty while the Corps was getting into Camp until midnight. I soon perceived that it was written by a Clergyman and probably a Virginian. The thoroughness of the Union sentiments and the evident attempt to correct a dangerous public sentiment beginning to pre-

[missing page]

come when the Lord will bless and deliver.

There is less of "jealousy and petty ambition" in the West, I think, than there was in the Army of the Potomac.

With sincere respect from the General and myself & kind remembrances for your family.

Very truly yours  
C. H. Howard

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3/8/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-144

Headquarters, Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

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Headquarters, Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Lookout Valley, Mar 8, 1864

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

Your letter of Feb 19 remailed by Mother with one also from Rowland reached me yesterday.

If you could have gone with some Colonels I would have said go as Commissary Sergt. But an enlisted man is under an iron rule. With some Colonels you would have been liable to be sent into the ranks at any little displeasure of theirs. And I suppose with assiduous attention to the business you might perhaps leave the Com'y business as well in the position of Clerk to a Brigade or other Com'y. If you knew the Quarter Master and Colonel each to be good men it would do to go as Com'y Sergt. You would be more directly under the Qr. Mr.

Otis' opposition to your leaving the law is wholly with a view to your own good. He knows that a man never makes a mark in the world or arrives to a position of great usefulness in his profession unless he has the utmost patience, perseverance and energy in its prosecution. And although you must go into whatever your hands find to do with your might so as to succeed temporarily yet I should not be willing for you to regard Commissary business or whatever you may transiently take up for the benefit of your health and pocket as at all permanent. You would need to keep constantly in view your higher calling and destiny.

All Commissaries are likely to have friends of their own to employ, but there may be a chance yet. Daniel Howard has not yet got his appointment he writes. It is doubtful whether he will succeed. Handsome penmanship goes to some length in securing any clerk's place - a large proportion of their business being copying. Then there is accuracy in figures and neatness in keeping papers & books.

I suppose Mother is at least on her way home by this time. She proposed starting from R. yesterday & if so will reach home before this reaches you. We are well.

No movement very soon. Grant has gone to Washington. Sherman back, I hear, without much success. The Cavalry failed him.

There have been three (3) articles derogatory to Otis since the vote of Congress - one in "Philad'a Bulletin", another in "Army & Navy Journal" & another in the U.S. Army Magazine published in N.Y. Two of them have been answered. I had better write something for you to send to the Press rather than send direct because they furnish me with a copy which need to pay for in some way. So you see I have my hands full of writing or scribbling.

Write me often. I will keep my eyes open for you.

Your affect. Brother.  
C. H. Howard

I will write soon. I have had entre nous an invitation to write for the "Maine Monthly" newly projected. And Otis says that the Editors of the Boston Journal invited me to furnish more articles for that paper.

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3/9/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Father (John Gilmore)

CHH-145

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Lookout Valley, March 9th 1864

My dear father

Your letter of February 29th reached me yesterday. If it is so much against your judgement you need not dispose of the 5-20 bonds though I conversed with the leading Banker in Richmond Ind. about financial matters and he said that he had decided to sell his 5-20 bonds, believing they would never be so high again. He did not know that I had any investment of that kind.

I knew that the 7 3/10 bonds were always considered convertible into 6 per cent 24 years bonds but what I wrote about them I took from the newspaper (Cincinnati) of that morning. What I want is to insure their being converted before maturity, if this will be the best course.

As to your note I have thought nothing about it except that I have been taught by you to do my business properly with whomsoever I may be transacting it, and I thought it was unbusiness-like to have a mortgage not recorded and believe such a mortgage is illegal. I prefer to have the mortgage recorded at once.

I was glad to have you write me about your business affairs because I am as deeply interested in your welfare as in my own or at least I generally feel so.

I hope the Lewiston Falls Bank will be converted into a National Bank.

My idea of investing in the West was not at all to take it from your care. I should much prefer to have it all under your supervision because I consider you the best friend I have, but I do not like to have all my property accumulated in Lewiston and Auburn. It may by some accident all go down at once. I prefer to divide and have some in the West. I get better interest in the West. I shall put it into a National Bank so I run no risk but they pay no other interest than 10 percent. You seem to think there would be more risk in trying for 10 percent which can not be the case as I simply take stock in a National Bank.

As to the \$500, I want that amount by the first of May when I will invest the first instalment in the 1st National Bank at Richmond Indiana. But if you send me a certificate of deposit for Two hundred dollars \$200, so that I shall receive it by April twentieth (20th) it will do. If you cannot send so soon you will be obliged to send directly to Uncle Henry (C. H. Strickland) so that it will reach him before May 1st and I desire you to write me to this effect as soon as you receive this if you cannot send the certificate direct to me. I do not consider that there will be any more risk than sending drafts.

I have now I believe received all of the back letters. As soon as I get my pay which will be this week, I will send you \$100 as you would like it by the 20th of March. This will necessitate your sending it back also before April 20, making the whole sum \$300 to be sent to me or if too late direct to Richmond.

With the same confidence and affection as ever, Your son,  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I suppose mother will reach home before this, so give her my love. I will write soon. C.H.H.

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3/12/1864

*From:* A. S. Packard

*To:* C. H. Howard

CHH-146

Bowdoin College,  
Brunswick Maine

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Bowdoin College March 12, 1864

My dear Sir:

Yours of the 4th inst, was received two days since & I feel much obliged to you for it. We should be glad to receive the Life of Washington you mention, particularly in view of the circumstances under which you obtained it. From your account of the book, I suspect it was written by one Weems who was a Virginian of Fairfax Co. If so, it is written in a bombastic style affecting the manner of the ancient poets, introducing formal similes by "as when" &c. Weems was a minister of the Episcopal Ch. & as good a fiddler as he was a preacher, sometimes uniting the two characters in his tours, & always fond of good living. I succeeded in getting a perfect copy of his Life of Washington a year or two since. The copies of the General's official reports would be very acceptable & on the condition you name. Any public documents which may fall in your way which will illustrate the rebellion in newspapers &c will be very grateful to us.

I am glad to receive the means of supplying the omission in our Triennial which I referred to. I am not unfrequently mortified to find similar omissions notwithstanding all care & solicitude.

We suppose that Gen. Sherman has returned having accomplished all that was designed, that is, the papers report so.

I am disgusted (& I speak just as the matter strikes one who knows only what the public picks states) at the course of Sickles & perhaps Doubleday regarding Gen. Meade at Gettysburg; a matter which, supposing it to be all true, was susceptible of &, I understand, has received, a full & satisfactory explanation. I sometimes think it would be well for the army of the Potomac, if Washington were 500 miles off. I am persuaded that all our armies would be greatly benefitted if we could choke off all the politicians. This however is one of the penalties we have to pay for free institutions. If you will allow me to bring up a college recollection, even if in Greek in the first Olyntheac Demosthenes speaks of the advantages wh. Philip, an absolute Sovereign, had over the Athenian Democracy in carrying on war. Philip could keep his own counsel.

We rejoice in the recent election in New Hampshire. But in Maine we have as outspoken & outrageous, disloyalty, as it seems to me, as anywhere, though I trust powerless to effect anything. Perhaps it is best. The administration ought always to feel its amenability: but the great cause seems to be moving on. Our dependence is on the voice of prayer which is continually ascending from thousands in the land.

For you all, from the General to the ranks, we lift up daily prayer & commend you to the Lord God of Sabaoth.

With sentiments of sincere respect & regard for the General & cordial friendship for yourself.

Ever & faithfully yours,  
A. S. Packard

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3/18/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-147

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Lookout Valley, March 18, 1864.

My dear Mother

Last Tuesday I received a long letter from Lizzie Strickland inclosing your photograph the best by far you ever have had - in fact as good as I could ask for. It seems you were to start for home last Monday and will reach there before this letter at least. I do not feel any anxiety but that you will get along well enough traveling alone. Do not believe you belong to the helpless tribe of female specimens of which I have often met but whom I would not select for a sister, wife or mother.

Lizzie wrote as though you were still happy and I trust you will never regret this tour West.

It is pleasant but we have had it colder for two days past. Day before yesterday we rode (Otis & staff and an escort of Cavalry) to Trenton [Georgia] & back by way of the top of Lookout Mountain, riding along for 10 miles on the Mt. The whole trip 40 miles. There were a few sprits of snow and it was almost too cold to enjoy the ride on the Mt. The peach blossoms must have had a hard trial - but the people say they will not be destroyed as long as it does not rain - so that water "freeze in the cup". We were pretty tired when we got back just at dark - started at 5 ½ A.M. but on the whole enjoyed the trip up the Valley. Trenton is a little Village at the terminus of the Rail Road by that name, the course of which we followed on our way up. As we came back on the East-side of Lookout brick for three miles before ascending the Mt. by way of "Nickajack trace". We found some fine farms which had been out of the usual course of the Army and were under a good state of preservation - as to fence, houses &c &c. One a large brick house - a farm of 800 acres - plenty of negroes - an old grey haired man - his son in the Rebel Army - was the finest establishment we have seen in this Valley - in fact we had no idea there were any so good.

Yesterday Otis & I rode over to see the Battlefield of Chickamauga having been invited by Gen. Davis who is encamped within a mile or two of that memorable field and was in that Battle. We took dinner with him & then rode with him & an aide of his until sunset. The field of the fighting for Saturday & Sunday (Sept 19 & 20th I believe are the dates) extended over five miles. It is made up of woods and openings. Most of the fighting was in woods. Thousands and thousands of bullet scars upon the trees - dozen or so upon a single tree. Otis counted 27 upon one tree. I picked up a few bullets. Large trees were lopped off high & low by the cannon balls. It was a very badly managed battle. We never fought so at a disadvantage in the Army of the Potomac. Gen. Rosecrans, I suppose, was entirely ignorant of the topography and does not seem to have taken it in at a glance as some men do. He was attacked in almost every instance when unprepared - i.e. while changing his lines or about to do so. There were graves all through those woods, scattered over the entire five miles.

We returned by the bright moonlight coming over the nose of Lookout getting home about 9 P.M. with an alarming appetite for Supper and a keen relish fo the refreshing night's sleep which followed.

Among the wonderful changes in Commanders and the more wonderful rumors in the newspapers we hardly know what to expect next. We are glad to have Sherman take Grant's - not only because we believe him the ablest man available but because we have campaigned with him and feel sure that he appreciates our Corps and is friendly to the General (Otis). The latter has just read Lizzie's letter - sends his love to you & father & Dellie - in which I join. A guerrilla raid destroyed our R.R. and interrupted the mail yesterday. But it came late and brought a letter from Rowland.

Your affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I inclose a "May-flower" (March) from Lookout. I gathered it Wednesday last. CHH



3/20/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-148

Head quarters 11th  
Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn

Head quarters 11th Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn  
Mar 20, 1864

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

Your letter written just a week ago today came this morning - an unusually quick passage. In fact I believe I never had a letter from Leeds in 6 days from the time it was mailed before.

Your letter contained great good news of the Religious Awakening in Leeds. I am glad you are there to share its blessings and write us about it. Otis said he thought he would write letters to Oscar and Solomon L. I do not wonder that George Lothrop felt rejoiced to have his brothers thus gathered into the Fold almost at the eleventh hour. What a new life of happiness & unful- [torn page] is before Oscar. I wish I could be with [torn page] old neighbors and friends thus renewedly at- [torn page] by the stronger bonds of Christian sym-[torn page]. What a blessing for Bell (Mrs. O.D.T.) who [torn page] quite happy before - but now will have her cup running over. I hope mother will be able to attend and enjoy some of the meetings.

They finally prevailed upon her at Uncle Henry's to wait until last Monday, I believe, before starting for home. But I think she probably reached you by Saturday night. I thought that perhaps you and father would miss mother much but think it was best for her to stay and make a good visit this time since it is great doubtful whether she will ever get so far West again.

Your letter came while we were about at a Sabbath School we have started for the children & others in this Valley. It is held at the Chapel tent of the Christian Commission about a mile from here. I have a class of little girls from 8 to 12 years old. None of them can read. They do not even know their letters. I do not try to teach them these things but finding that they are totally ignorant of God and all the instructions of the Bible. I [torn page] of the a.b.c. of religious truth, trying [torn page] to the best of my ability to interest the [torn page] have succeeded pretty fairly thus far. I [torn page]

Otis teaches a class of older young ladies if you can apply this term to the uneducated, uncultivated, uncouth females of this Valley. But I find no lack of natural intelligence in my pupils and believe had they had the privileges of New England Common schools they would not have been behind the little girls at home. Perhaps you know that I had experience in teaching about an incorrigible class of boys, while at West Point, as one could imagine. I do not dislike to teach.

It has been a fine day. This last week has been cold for this latitude. Wednesday we took a ride of 40 miles starting at 5 a.m. Visited Trenton & returned along on the top of Lookout Mountain for 10 or 15 miles. We saw much that was new and interesting but the ride was rather long and the day too cold for comfort.

Next day Otis & I went over and dined with Gen. Jeff C. Davis & he rode with us all over the Chickamauga Battlefield. It took the entire day and we [torn page] the moonlight to come home in.

□

Friday [torn page] writing. Seems to me I have not directly [torn page] your next to the last letter in which you expressed a preference for Sec'y Chase for the next President. I am decidedly opposed to his nomination. I have not a thought of any one but Abraham Lincoln. It would be a fatal mistake in the Republican party to nominate anyone else. I have written an article for the Daily Press on this subject which you will see and I will not further discuss it. Since I wrote that article I am happy to find that the legislatures of several States have taken up in favor of [torn page] Pres. Lincoln and Chase has taken himself out of the way. It would stand before the South as a repudiation of Pres. Lincoln & all his policy if any other should be elected. My pride is too great even though this is the most insignificant of all my reasons, to allow them to have my congratulations over the defeat of honest Abe. So you observe, father



and I will agree very well.

I said something like my writing going to your credit in the Press, in my private note to Mr. Gilman. Yesterday we had a review of the 1st Brigade of the <[torn page]> Div'n which is now encamped in this <[torn page]> 5 Regiments - a <> brigade with <[torn page]> of mounted infantry which latter is very <[torn page]>.

Much love to Mother. I believe I acknowledged receipt of her photograph which was the best I have ever seen of her and I am very glad to have it. Write me all the particulars you can about the Revival, even the sayings of some of the new converts, if you remember any. Write <[torn page]> down for me. I hope <[torn page]> is among those who have <[torn page]> the Saviour. Mother <[torn page]> meetings and Richmond Ind. Has not a very religious atmosphere. In fact the West is not like New England in this respect. Some of mother's new acquaintances were, however, excellent Christian people. I have taken a <soudles> upon Raccoon Mountains today - getting back in time for the Divine services at 5 P.M.

Leeds has not seemed so attractive before for a long time as it has today since the arrival of your letter. I really would like to be home a while but I hope & pray that the results, at least, of these good things and good times will last till I again visit home even that be long deferred. I will [torn page] have a firm hope of [torn page] many of our neighbors in an [torn page] Heavenly Kingdom by His [torn page] assisting me. I hope father's [torn page] <> work.

Love to him (father) to Cynthia & Roland & family - to Uncle Ensign & family. I trust all will strive to share the blessing which seems to be ripe for them at this time.

Your Affectionate Brother  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I gathered some May flowers the other day upon Lookout. I inclose a little sprig. C. H. H.

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4/2/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Father (John Gilmore)

CHH-149

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Lookout Valley, Tenn

Leeds, Maine

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Lookout Valley, Apr 2nd 1864.

Dear father

Your letter reached me yesterday P.M. and I hasten to reply. I had not been informed of the premium on the stock of the Richmond National Bank. Uncle Henry had the privilege of doubling his stock and said he would give me \$1000 of that (i.e. his) so perhaps in this way I would get it without paying a premium. I have written him this morning and shall write you as soon as I hear. I told him if I must pay a premium I thought I would not invest there at present. I did this partly because you seem so backward and reluctant to furnish the \$200.

I am sorry that you are thinking of selling that land. Why sell land at this time? And I do not think it is right for you to sell it before recording that mortgage. I feel as though you have not done just right in this matter when I had written so plainly.

The Spring Campaign now opens and I wished my business matters satisfactorily settled. I do not wish to transfer any debt of yours to Roland G. I do not think it best. I prefer that you should properly legalize the transaction by which I may be secured for your debt and which was fairly understood. I cannot see you to make out and sign any new papers. I only ask that the note may be covered by mortgage as agreed. Your excuse for not recording the mortgage before the existence of one to Mr. Foss does not now hold good. If you need the \$100 cash, and I do not invest at Richmond (as seems probable now as there will be scarcely time to get the \$200 before the 1st of May) I will send it to you.

Please write how many of the 5-20's are mine and what there is for me to show for them.

Had not Mr. Libbey better keep all my bonds for me giving some certificate to this effect? I am glad the Lewiston Falls Bank is to change to a National one. I have written frankly just as I feel and I shall be gratified if my wishes can be complied with.

We are all well. Frank Gilman is doing Otis' writing. Otis saw Gen. Sherman yesterday. Probably the 12th & 11th Corps will be consolidated and Otis have the new Corps. Hooker will go some where else - probably have 4th Corps.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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4/4/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Prof. A. S. Packard

CHH-150

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps,  
Lookout Valley,  
Tennessee

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Lookout Valley, Tennessee, Apr. 4th 1864.

Prof. Packard:  
My dear Sir

Your letter of March 12th was duly received. You were right, I find, in your surmise as to the authorship of the old Life of Washington.

One day after I had sent the copy to you I was riding along our Picket line with the General and called at a house just over the state boundary in Georgia. It was a log-cabin as most of the houses in this vicinity are but had an appearance of neatness rarely seen in this Valley. Knocking at the open door we were ushered in by a young woman of eighteen or twenty years and found an old man sitting near the only window there was - reading his Bible. He looked up and spoke civilly as we entered and the General began a conversation with him.

It was refreshing to find him not only capable of reading, but actually ready to confess that he spent a great part of his time reading the Bible. (Out of 87 of the inhabitants who drew rations from our Commissary only three could write their names.) The old man said in the course of the conversation that there were only four books that he was accustomed to read and those he had read over, a great many times. The Bible he read most. Then there was "The Life of Washington", "The Life of Marion" and a book of Dialogues. He brought me "The Life of Washington" and I found that it was the same I had sent you though complete and apparently a later edition. I saw that it was by Weems and had a title-page as pretentious as the style of the book. I suppose the copy you have contains the quotation of an opinion of "H. Lee Major General Army U.S." upon the title-page.

The old man talked like a Christian. He had lived here for many years. Came about the time the Cherokees moved away. Was born in South Carolina. Said he was a Union man - that he had read that "Life of Washington" too much to be anything else. Said his son at the beginning of the war used to get that book and point out and read passages to the neighbors, to show them the wrong of "Secession", but that son was now in the Rebel Army - forced to fight against his country and his Convictions of right.

The General has started a Sabbath School in connection with the Christian Commission. He is also constructing a Church, to be used during the week for a school and on Sunday for Divine Service. He will detail a soldier to teach the school until some teacher can be procured by the C.C. to remain after we move which must be in the course of a month I think.

I intend to furnish you with those official reports, as soon as I can procure the copies & have the time to attend to it.

With warmest wishes for your welfare from the General & myself.

I remain with respect  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Since writing my letter I have taken a ride in company with my brother and I thought I would mention an incident or two of our calls upon the families.

At the first little log-hut the General went in and I remained outside and talked with two little boys about coming to Sabbath School. I learned from them that there were two families crowded into that little 7 by 9 apartment. The General told me that he found one child lying dead in the house and another very sick. The mother said she had lost five (5) children within a short time and her husband. The squalor of these habitations and the filthiness of person of all the people, whether man, woman, or child, is beyond

everything I have ever seen.

At another house we found a man, a miller, but as the people all draw rations now and have no grinding he is without occupation, and seems utterly hopeless and aimless. A woman with a child two years old lives in the same one-apartment house though not his wife. She said the soldiers took all her corn and wheat before the end of two hours, though she had enough to last a year & a half.

This was when the half famished men from Chattanooga first landed in this Valley cooperating with Hooker's forces which came up from Bridgeport at the same time. Those men had starved on quarter rations for one or two weeks. Our occupation of this Valley opened the Tennessee for Steamboats and relieved the pressure for food. But most of these poor people lost their all in the few days before the boats got to running. We now feed (this Corps alone) 1000 of these inhabitants.

This woman said they tore down her house & took all her household stuff. Probably she left it during the fight and they appropriated the timber and contents to protect themselves from the weather as they had no tents at first. Another young woman also lived in this one room, who attends the Sabbath School. I found a boy of 12 years who also lives there & who thinks he will come next Sunday.

Respectfully & truly yours  
C. H. Howard

4/6/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-151

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Lookout Valley, Tenn.

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Department of the Cumberland [Letterhead]

Lookout Valley, Tenn. April 6th, 1864.

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I am just about starting for an excursion upon Lookout Mountain with Frank Gilman. The consolidation of the 11th and 12th Corps will be known to you before you get this. Otis has gone to consult with Gen Hooker this morning about staff officer &c. & c.

There is a good deal of a fluttering among the disturbed brood at these Head quarters. We feel somewhat sad at thoughts of leaving old associations here and attached friends. Some must be left behind. Otis will try for his Qr. Mr. Lt. Col. Hayes and he would like to have our old stand-by Col. Balloch.

Thursday - April 7 1864 - Did not get time to finish my letter yesterday. Did not return till dark. It was a clear day and the view magnificent. Frank was enraptured - looking into 7 states with all the picturesque beauty and grandeur of extent over a country varied with mountains, valleys, meandering streams from a curling creek & the majestic sweep of the Tennessee, the effect heightened by the works of man - a city - the encampment of a great army - earthworks, Rail Roads, bridges and the like - and then the historic associations of three great battle-fields - more than historic to us, having all the interest of real tragedy and of actual grand conflict. But there would be no end of enumerating if I should undertake to recount all the points of interest in the magnificent panorama spread out before you standing upon Lookout Mountain. We rode around much, examined a new fort building on the summit, went to a cave, in which is a beautiful cascade - a calybeate spring and other pleasing features. We worked about two hours in digging up a Laurel root from which Capt. Stinson & I propose to have some keepsakes carved.

It is another pleasant morning. Still the excitement about the braking up of the Corps & the transfer of Gen. Howard to the 4th continues and increases. Some of the staff are pretty blue - e.g. Balloch, Asmussen and many others subordinate. There is a handsome tribute to the General in this morning's Chatanooga Gazette. Says it is an honor to the 4th Corps.

You can hardly conceive of the amount of labor - of the planning and administrative kind - which devolves upon us in these changes. I am writing in the Gen's tent where much talking is going on. Maj. Gen. Butterfield will have a Div'n in the new Corps - which, by the way, will be called the 20th instead of 1st as first indicated. Geary will have another & perhaps Steinweher another though the latter is doubtful. Rousseau has a Div'n in the 12th & may continue in the 20th. We will have (in the 4th) Maj. Gen. Stanley, Gen. Wood, and probably Newton to take Sheridan's place who has gone East. So we will have regular army officers to command the Div'ns & several of the brigades ditto - e.g. Hazen & Harker.

Give much love to Mother.

Cleaveland will be a pleasant place for Hd. Qrs. Direct your letters via Nashville Hd. Qrs. Tell me about the good work at Leeds. Love to father. Otis says he will lend me the money if father cannot send the \$200 on time. I got your note with Rowland's and had previously written a recommendation for Blanchard and got Otis to endorse it. He goes to an old regiment of ours 157th N.Y. of our old 1st Div'n.

Hastily written but cordially  
Your Affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard



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5/18/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-152

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
Adairsville Ga.  
On Dalton & Atlanta  
R.R.

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Headquarters Fourth Army Corps, [Letterhead]  
Department of the Cumberland [Letterhead]

Adairsville Ga. May 18, 1864, 11 A.M.  
On Dalton & Atlanta R.R.

Dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

All well and happy this morning. Had a pretty severe engagement near here last Evening. 4th Corps was moving from Calhoun to this place. We were skirmishing with enemy's rear guard all the way. I was near the head of Col. Turner. There was much woods and it was blind and disagreeable work. The Rebels availed themselves of every suitable position to make a stand. Then they could use some artillery and dispute our passage till driven out. Near here they took up position with two Divn's Infantry & 4 brigades of Cavalry & we could not start them much before dark.

Our losses in our brigade were considerable. Three of the staff horses were wounded. One shell burst right amongst us but no one was much hurt. One horse was killed. My "Jack" (horse) was wounded at Resacca. There we had a Battle.

The 2nd day Hooker attacked the left & though he failed to carry the works yet he captured 4 pieces of artillery & the Rebel loss was great. His loss was terrible also. We cooperated on his right & lost considerably. The day before we attacked & drove the enemy 1 mile or more but in turn had our left badly used just at night. I was there (on the left) and it made me think of Chancellorville. Our battery (9th Indiana) however did nobly and Hooker's troops, a brigade of the old 11th Corps, came up just in time to save the position and the battery. The Brigade Commander said there was no person in the world he would like better to help than Gen. Howard and the old troops he so long Commanded in. The 11th Corps did not flinch nor flag but sent the Rebels back with a zeal.

Otis had asked for some troops on his left knowing it was threatened. So as Hooker's troops were no longer needed on the right he was moved to our left. Scofield cooperated with 4th Corps 1st day but was on Hooker's left, supporting 2nd day - next on our right there was 14th Corps (Palmer) and then came McPherson's Army, being 15th Corps (Layman) and part of 16th. The night after Hooker's fight the Rebels retreated and we marched to Calhoun skirmishing on the way. This was 16th inst. Fighting at Resacca (14th & 15th). Our Corps also fought them at Buzzard's Roost near Dalton for several days. We took Tunnel Hill Saturday May 7th. Afterwards the whole army (except our Corps with Stoneman's & McCook's Cavalry which held the front) moved down through Snake Creek Gap upon the flank of Resacca.

The Rebels from their lookout stations on the mountains discerned the movement however & were ready to meet them. All the Rebels evacuated our front Thursday 12th & we marched into Dalton, skirmishing a little. Friday morning a final-day we marched on pressing the rear guard & that night formed junction with the rest of Sherman's Army.

I have given you a mere outline. We had considerable hard fighting in the face of Buzzard Roost and on Rocky Ridge.

I have never neglected writing so much & I fear mother will become very anxious. We leave our trains behind and have very little chance to write. Sherman & Thomas are sitting upon the Verandah of the

house here. I am under a tree in the luxuriant garden. The green sward is covered with lolling staff officers. Otis & two of his Div'n Gen'ls are sitting near. Otis has been up talking with Sherman & Thomas. The Bands are playing all about - very gayly. We anticipate fighting today or yesterday and at Kingston. Deserters say Johnson will make a stand with his entire army & try to defeat us. He has been reinforced by every thing that could be collected from below but we go strong. Hooker & Scofield left, McPherson right, 4th Corps Center, 14th Reserve.

Send this to mother. I don't know as I should have written this to you, fearing her anxiety but I had only one envelope & that directed to you. If the Lord continues to bless, the Rebellion will soon begin totter.

Your loving brother  
C. H. Howard  
(Lt. Col. & A. A. G.)



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6/21/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-153

Hd. qrs. 4th Corps  
Near Kennesaw Mt.  
Georgia

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Hd. qrs. 4th Corps  
Near Kennesaw Mt. June 21 1864

My dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

My days are so filled up with fighting and the occupations incident to an active campaign in which we are pressing the enemy as hard as we can every day, that I hardly know whether I have written since your last was received. I was glad to hear you had made another successful Book expedition bringing home the spoils in the shape of cash and useful experience.

I wrote mother yesterday morning but you will see by the telegraph probably that the 4th Corps had rather more than a skirmish yesterday and this might occasion some anxiety unless I wrote today.

In the forenoon we were only skirmishing - i.e. the picket lines in front of the works of both armies were trying to get any advantage they could and shooting at one another as briskly as they well could, every man trying to keep out of sight himself but see one of the enemy if possible and then aim and bang! Sometimes they get so interested in this engaging work that they think far less about covering themselves than they do about discovering the enemy and for this reason more probably are shot than would otherwise be the case. I think when we merely skirmish in the manner mentioned not attempting to advance and gain any important point, our losses average about ten (10) per day to a Brigade.

But yesterday at 4 P.M. Scofield in the extreme right of the Army was ordered to cross Noses Creek in his front. The right of the 4th Corps as also Hooker's Corps had already got across. The rest of the Army was ordered to demonstrate with artillery and skirmish lines to attract the enemy's attention. Otis took advantage of this and ordered Gen. Stanley to take a hill in his front held by the enemy. It was important because liable to be occupied by the Rebel artillery, and it was a commanding position. Besides the Rebels brought a destructive musketry fire from it upon a portion of our line. So at Four P.M. when our artillery had opened all along the line. Whittaker's Brigade charged the hill driving the Rebels and capturing 20 men and an officer. Very soon reinforcements were pushed up and they had the hill fortified in almost less than no time so that when the enemy had formed and made a counter charge with three lines they were repulsed with terrible slaughter by our well directed and tremendous storm of rifle balls. I never heard a louder cheer than the Rebels set up and they never went trembling back in greater confusion. The hill we took was found to be close upon another equally high and upon which was the main line of the enemy's work. They tried several times to retake the hill but were easily repulsed.

Another hill at the right of this of less importance was taken by the skirmish line of Kirby's Brigade ("Crufts") and as Kirby's had very little to support it with and did not send what he had in season this hill was regained by the enemy. We will probably retake it this morning, as our artillery commands it.

We were a little anxious last night as many of our troops had moved to the right to relieve Hooker who moved still further to the right or elsewhere. But we are all right now having sufficient reserves to hold what we have. 8 officers were wounded in the leading Regiment of that Charge of Whittakers (21st Kentucky). The enemy opened with artillery upon a point where I was yesterday P.M. at very close range. It was rather demoralizing but otherwise I took no harm. Our entire loss yesterday will not much exceed 200.

We had some magnificent artillery fighting, when a Rebel battery would open from the hill adjoining Kennesaw some 24 guns would belch out upon it at such a style as to dry it up after firing two or three shots. We are about three or four miles from Marietta.

The Lord bless & keep you always in the right path. Send this home if you can.

Your affec. Brother

C. H. Howard

It is raining, raining, raining! Every day.

Direct, please, Lt. Col. Not Col.

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7/2/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-154

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
In the Field Near  
Kennesaw Mt, Ga.

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Headquarters Fourth Army Corps, [Letterhead]  
Department of the Cumberland [Letterhead]  
In the Field Near Kennesaw Mt, Ga., July 2nd 1864.

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I have the leisure to write today and it is your turn to have a letter. I wrote a long one to Rowland day before yesterday.

Since our unsuccessful assault on the 27th ult. (last Monday) we have done no fighting. Are trying to get up supplies for a new start. You will have seen that the Rebel Raiding parties in our rear succeed in cutting our communications pretty often but thus far we have not suffered much delay or inconvenience from this and additional troops have come forward on the lines of the R.R. lately which will render it pretty safe.

I wonder if I have written you from our present Hd. Qrs. At the house of a Mr. Guess who had fled South. The house, a miserable little old wooden affair we use for kitchens. But the yard is pleasant with shade trees of different kinds: oak, locust, cherry, mulberry &c. Some shrubbery & flowers were here but our tents are pitched with little respect to the lay of the garden. The ground slopes to the road in front of our row of tents & tent-flies. We have now two tents one of which I have the honor to occupy with the General. The flies do very well for pleasant weather but when it rains we get wet from the rain beating in at the ends and on the sides. It is very warm in the sun - scorching - but we manage to keep a good deal in the shade.

In fact it is all woods in this country, the exception being a few openings or clearings. For these reasons it is very difficult to get at the exact formation & situation of the Rebel line of works. There is no point from which we get more than a glimpse of them and that only in one or two points at a time. In two or three places <[too faint]> our own line there is an open field between & we are within 4 or 500 yards of the Rebel works. At such points we have batteries & generally no skirmish line in front as we can readily fire across from work to work with musketry.

We heard from Gen. Thomas last evening that Scofield was a little pressed by the enemy on the extreme left or apprehensive of something of the kind. He therefore wished a demonstration last night and this morning so our artillery opened all along. We could hear the same from McPherson away beyond (East) of Kennesaw. It was a grand cannonade - all on our side however as far as our Corps was concerned. The same was done this morning and the skirmishers began to fire and make as if they intended to advance. Our men in the rear by instruction get up a tremendous cheer as they do when a charge begins. Doubtless "ye Rebels" trembled in their shoes and old Johnson, if he had intended detaching a part of his forces in our front to whip Scofield, said, "wait", "let us see what comes of all this firing & cheering before we move". "It will not do to weaken the center just now." or perhaps he said "It will not do to move from behind the works now until this artillery firing is over., we will expose our columns to the enemy's shells which (most of them) go over in rear of the works."

We got a Rebel Atlanta paper of day before yesterday last evening. They take considerable comfort from our discomfiture of last Monday & our heavy loss in comparison with their own. But it is but a drop in the bucket compared with Grant's losses ever since he crossed James River. Our loss was probably not more than 3,500 in the whole army, but since we started on the campaign - summing up the whole the losses have been large - between 5 & 6 thousand. Yes, including the other day (27th) more than 6000 in this Corps alone. I suppose about the same in the in the 20th but much less in the others. Our

Reinforcements have more than equalled our losses in the whole army.

Yesterday I was out with Otis examining the position

[missing 5th page]

but I hope you will write to me often. I have not rec'd a letter for some time from you. Two from Rowland since. Mother has not written in a great while. I hear that she works hard and is tired. I am sorry for this. Did you have a pleasant time at Leeds while your Cousins were there. Rowland mentioned them. Have they returned to Massachusetts? I would like to meet them. Rowland spoke as though father were not well. How is he? We are as comfortably situated as ever in a campaign. Our wounded are better cared for than they can possibly be in the army of the Potomac. In fact, with all the breaking of our long line of Communications we never have suffered for anything except that our horses were for a while on short allowance while we were near Dallas but that was before we secured the R.R. this side of the Etowah River & Alatoonah Mountains. It is said that there is no mountainous Country below the Chattahoochee and that there is no strong position for the Rebels except on that river till we get 9 miles below Atlanta. You will not get this till after 4th of July, if you get it at all. By that time I trust we will have [see 5th page margin].

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7/10/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-155

Headquarters Fourth  
Army Corps,  
Department of the  
Cumberland  
On the Chattahoochee,  
Vinings Station,  
[Georgia]

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Headquarters Fourth Army Corps, [Letterhead]  
Department of the Cumberland [Letterhead]  
On the Chattahoochee,  
Vinings Station, [Georgia] July 10, 1864.

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

This warm Sabbath morning we are at Pace's house where we have had Hd. Qrs. Ever since we reached the river July 5th. The Rebels had a Corps on this side of the river sent down the R.R. further, holding a peninsula made by a bend in the Chattahoochee. This morning we hear that they are gone. Our left has been along the river which is less than a mile from here directly east but there it turns & runs South and the R.R. keeps parallel till it reaches the bend (3 miles). The Rebels had a Pontoon bridge here (they had a bridge also near the R.R. bridge) and though they cut loose this end yet our men got to the bank in season to prevent further destruction and to prevent their removing the boats and we have since got the bridge away from them.

Scofield has gone above and secured a lodgement on the other side the river 5 miles up. He lost only 2 men in doing it & captured one cannon & a General officer. One of our Div'ns (Trenton's) has gone up 15 miles to Roswell where Garrard's Cavalry effected a crossing yesterday. McPherson is up there by this time and these movements have I suppose caused the Rebels to evacuate entirely their fine works on this side of the river. We had none of them in front of our Eight Brigade & they are not there this morning - besides from a hill our people have seen the R.R. bridge burning this morning.

We are well and will go now (Otis & I) to see Gen. Thomas. We can see Atlanta from a high hill near here. It looks like a large city but seems to be in the midst of a great forest. The mail is going but it is pretty doubtful whether this will run the gauntlet of all the Guerrillas & Raiding parties between here and Nashville (250 miles). We have had some mules captured and a few days since a young man our Mail Agent was on a train which was captured & burned and he had I suppose \$50 for Otis and \$250 for me which he had collected of the Paymaster at Chattanooga. I had ordered about \$225 sent home in checks, or rather \$250 brought down to pay my debts with and for immediate use and the remainder of 3 months pay to be sent to Father - Possibly he may escape and save the money. Col. Sherman our chief of staff was captured by the Rebels by getting out through a gap in the lines which he went to rectify. This since we have been here.

My loss of money does not compare with his misfortune. Please say little about my slight loss except to father & mother. I think we will soon be hugging close around Atlanta.

Affectionately  
C. H. Howard

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7/13/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-156

Head-Quarters 4th  
Army Corps  
Assistant Inspector  
General's Office  
On South Bank  
Chattahoochee Ga  
Near Power's Ferry

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Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps [Letterhead]  
Assistant Inspector General's Office [Letterhead]  
On South Bank Chattahoochee Ga  
Near Power's Ferry, July 13, 1864

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is about 10 P.M. a moonlight night, strangely quiet & peaceful for us. Otis has just lain down to sleep for the night. I am sitting at my desk under a pine tree. Pine trees about six inches in diameter are all about us. Do you wonder that we Maine people choose a pine grove for Hd. Qrs. It is a pretty place - quite a nice grassy carpet for the feet & this is very unusual for this country. We see little good greensward.

Our Corps crossed yesterday. Part of Scofield's (23d Corps) had crossed above before and part of McPherson's Command, is across still further up at Roswell Factory. Did you hear about the capture of the 40 girls, operatives in the factory. They were at their work making Army Cloth. The factory was destroyed by Gen. Sherman's order - property to the amount of more than a million. The girls were sent in wagons to Marietta and are being sent North by cars. But those who saw them say they are not so spruce & neat looking as our factory girls North. In fact that most of them were very poorly clad and some barefooted.

Since last Sunday when we moved up river to support Scofield we have not come in contact with any Rebels. There are only a few Cavalry in our immediate front so that we hear no firing. Our Corps has not had so complete a rest nor been so entirely free from contact with the enemy but once since we left a rather struck Tunnel Hill. That once was for a day or two at Cassville. We suppose the Rebel Army is going to wait for us in their intrenchments just this side of Atlanta - probably along the banks of Peach Tree Creek. Sherman did not care to hurry after getting them across the Chattahoochee. Two of our Div's crossed yesterday and one today. One of ours (Wood's) will push down the river tomorrow morning, drive away the enemy from in front of Pace's Ferry (where we first struck the river) and thus make way for the 14th Corps to throw a bridge & cross. Probably the 20th Corps will cross at the same place. One of our own Div's (Stanley's) crossed above at Scofield's bridge & moved down to cover the crossing of the remainder of the Corps & the building of the bridge here at Power's Ferry yesterday.

It is a charming night, but has been terribly hot in the sun today. In the forenoon I was riding considerably getting Newton in position. This P.M. I have been writing & reading newspapers. This evening - just before I began my letter I went out to a little clear-running brook or "branch" as they call it in this country and took a bath in company with Capt. Gilbreth. Some of the staff took a swim in the Chattahoochee today & I hope to tomorrow. Sherman says he was ordered by Grant to drive Johnson across the Chattahoochee & now he has accomplished that - he is ready to go on & do more. He (Gen. S.) is feeling pretty well. We expect good news from another direction pretty soon.

But Otis told me when he went to bed that I ought not to sit up & write tonight & I will close with this sheet. Hope this will find you better than when you wrote. I got your letter Sunday last. Did you go to Leeds for the 4th? I think I have written you how we celebrated. We are 11 miles from Atlanta. Has the draft taken place yet? I do not believe you will be <holden>. The \$300 will not answer now I believe. Wood may have some fighting in the morning but the rest of us will rest another day.

Love to father & mother.

Affectionately,  
C. H. Howard

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9/7/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-157

Head Quarters District  
of Vicksburg  
Vicksburg, Miss.

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Head Quarters District of Vicksburg [Letterhead]  
Vicksburg, Miss. [Letterhead] Sept 7, 1864.

My dear Mother

I arrived here this morning having enjoyed a very pleasant passage down on the boat from Memphis, though an unusually long one owing to being upon a small boat with an inexperienced or inefficient pilot. For the latter reason we had to lay at anchor nearly every night. I started last Saturday noon and today is Wednesday.

The first of last evening we had a moon and I sat upon the upper or hurricane deck and watched the banks or the quiet water or the starry sky till late into the evening when we anchored for the night. Early yesterday morning Dr. Buckner's family (whom I think I mentioned in my letter from Cairo) disembarked at Eggs Point. It was at their plantation. Dr. B. owns there six thousand acres of fine land.

I considered it extremely fortunate that I happened to get upon the same boat with them coming down from Memphis. It was (the "R. E. Hill") not so large and fine a boat as the "Darling" which brought us from Louisville. But Dr. B's family were pleasant company for me and of course so long together we got to be first-rate friends. They made me promise to come & see them after the war & would insist upon it now they said, were it not that they feared the guerrillas would catch me. I found before I parted from them that the ladies (3 in the party) were all "Secesh" and they were, I think, really surprised to find in a "yankee" and one too from away down in Maine so much of a gentleman as they were pleased to regard your humble servant.

We had no guerrilla firing nor other very remarkable incident coming down unless I mention a collision with a gunboat which frightened the ladies terribly & ditto most of the men. It was the fault of our awkward pilot. It was near Helena & we were moving up towards the wharf very slowly - it being a little before light. I was up and dressed as I had dispatches to the officer commanding at Helena, Arkansas. We were moving slowly & the current drifted us against the gunboat with force enough to make quite a smash in noise and at first we feared a hole in our hull but it proved less serious and our boat stood up under it manfully.

I formed the acquaintance of Capt. Howard (Sam'l) of the Gunboat "Neosha" at the mouth of White River. He told me most of his relatives were in Georgia. We had a little trouble owing to his strict orders that our boat should make no landing until we reached Vicksburg. This was to prevent Contraband trade. I believe our little boat needed watching too for she is truly of the class called "Cotton thieves" and does not mind as to what sort of supplies she trades for Cotton nor of whom she buys it as nearly as I could learn from keeping my eyes and ears open during the trip.

I have decided to go to New Orleans and see Gen. Canby, going by the first boat. So I fear it will be a week or two yet before I shall hear from you. I have further despatches from Gen. Washburn & Gen. Canby & besides I have not completed my business for Otis & Gen. Sherman satisfactorily & cannot till I see Gen. Canby.

Be sure and have letters sent me to Louisville (care of Capt. Miller Proprietor of the Galt House.) I feel so anxious to hear from you & home that sometimes I am unhappy. But I commend you to Our Heavenly Father & trust He will give you Grace & strength for every day.

Vicksburg is built upon a high bluff on the river's bank. I am going to ride around & view the fortifications this P.M. Gen. Dana who is in command is an old acquaintance, having been in the old 2nd Corps with us on the Peninsula. He would not allow me to stay at the Hotel but brought me right to his Hd. qrs. Gen. Washburn also was kind & had me take most of my meals with him. He looks like as Uncle John Otis used to when of the same age - say 45 or 50. I have a nice room all by myself.



I am somewhat anxious to hear from Otis for I know they have been moving & probably have had a great battle before Atlanta since I left. It is about time for my ride. My health never better.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

4:00 P.M.

P.S.

Capt. Norton has just arrived from Memphis & brings the news that Atlanta is captured. Hurrah for Gen. Sherman!

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9/10/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-158

Headquarters, Military  
Div. of the West  
Mississippi,  
New Orleans, Louisiana

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Headquarters, Military Div. of the West Mississippi, [Letterhead]  
New Orleans, [Letterhead] Sept 10th 1864

My dear Mother

I wrote you from Vicksburg and now I have a little leisure that I cannot better spend than in telling you how kindly Providence still spares and blesses me. We had a fine large steamer from Vicksburg here. Started just after sundown and were two nights and nearly two days in making the passage.

Spent some two hours at Natches, a beautiful city, built upon the high bluffs, I believe the first after leaving Vicksburg. We took one night in getting to Natches. I called on Gen. [Moses] Brayman who commands the Post. Some of the wealthiest & most aristocratic (in a mild sense) people of the South reside at Natches. Many of them have always been good Union people. They say, that is my acquaintances say, that some of the most refined & beautiful ladies of the World reside at Natches but I had not the time to make an inspection in that direction. My duties are strictly military.

The Mississippi has fewer sand-bars as we go down, becoming deep and broad and its banks highly cultivated. For the last 80 miles the shores are lined with magnificent sugar plantations. You see the large brick steam sugar mills on every plantation and they occur as frequently as once in every half or quarter of a mile. The houses are all prettily located and surrounded with shade trees but do not seem to be so costly or elegant in structure as you might expect from the immense wealth of the owners.

I found Gen. [Edward Richard Sprigg] Canby as hospitable & kind as Gen. Danse. He first wanted me to dine with him and then insisted that I should leave the St Charles Hotel & take up my room at his house. It is an elegant room. I enjoyed the shower bath last night - after my long journeying on the boats where we have no such luxury. His servants are attentive to all my wants. I assure you I had a sweet sleep in as fine a bed as a man could wish. The people here do not think of sleeping without mosquito bars but with this armor you can rest secure.

I found lots of friends of the Army. Maj. Gen. [Gordon] Granger, who you will remember formerly commanded the 4th Army Corps and was succeeded by Otis, came and gave me a ride last evening in a two horse carriage of the most finished make. He drove himself & took me out upon the celebrated shell roads which are the best in the world I suppose. How much you would enjoy riding upon them, so hard and level, yet without the harshness of most pavements. We rode by moonlight till late into the evening. He was eager to talk about our Campaign in Georgia & the officers of his old Corps.

Maj. Gen Reynolds is also an old acquaintance. He used to be Gen. Thomas' chief of staff. He met me with much cordiality. I found a College mate Capt. Farmington on his staff. My business is over & I will return by the same boat that brought me down, though I would have been glad to have had leisure to have remained longer in this pleasant city. I found another College mate Maj. Loring of Norridgewick & he is to call for me with a carriage to ride out to Lake Ponchartrain this afternoon.

I met Rowland's old Kent's Hill friend Thomas Hood on the street today and calling him by name astonished him greatly. He seemed much pleased to see me but I fear he has been a bad Rebel. He has maintained always that he is a British subject. He is now going to <Metanioras> Mexico to go into business there. I suspect there are many more old friends here if I only knew how or where to find them & had the time to do so.

Hoping that this will find you well and enjoying God's blessing & the Comfort of His love. I remain  
Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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9/11/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-159

Headquarters, Military  
Div. of the West  
Mississippi  
New Orleans, La.

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Headquarters, Military Div. of the West Mississippi [Letterhead]  
New Orleans, [Letterhead] Sept. 11 1864.

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I wrote to mother that I expected to leave this city last evening but Gen Canby did not get the dispatches ready and besides the boat I was to go in the "James White" does not leave till tomorrow at 10 a.m. I have been to Church today - the first time for many months. For two previous Sundays, yes three, I have been travelling. It was at the Methodist Church and I heard Brig. Gen. Pyle preach. He is I think from Missouri. His sermon was good though not specially brilliant. I was glad to hear a sound religious discourse and I hope it will do me good. He dwelt upon the power & worth and destiny of the Kingdom of our Lord. It is to grapple with wrong & sin everywhere - in private and public - in social life, & in the body politic.

The audience was small. The "secesh" refuse to attend the union churches. Society is in an unenviable state down here. The Rebels seem dogged and unreconciled. But they are truly under the yoke - subjugated. They hate to acknowledge it and we would fain use a milder term but they are so uncompromising that it cannot be otherwise as long as we occupy the city with our Army.

Did you know that Gen. Banks had one of Henry Clay's abolition sentences inscribed upon the statue of him standing in Canal Street? And on Jackson's statue in another square - "The Union, it must & shall be preserved." I suppose they will drill out these inscriptions if ever our Army leaves here.

I wrote mother that I was stopping with Gen. Canby by his invitation. Last evening he lent me his fine horse & buggy and I took for a guide Lt. Col. Hamlin U.S. Colored Artillery (who was a non Com. Officer in 3d Maine when we first came out) and we rode to Lake Ponchartrain - about 6 miles. The shell roads are very fine & I enjoyed the ride much. There is not much to see out there.

But it is the drive for all who wish to take a ride out of town. There is a kind of Coffee house out there - a shooting gallery &c. On our way back we passed the dwelling ground where many a poor fellow has fallen a victim to passion and a false sense of honor. It is a pretty spot shaded by live oaks with two Coffee houses where the different parties would meet. There is a kind of little Arbor-house midway between the Coffee houses where the seconds would meet to arrange.

There are some fine houses on Esplanade St. e.g. that of Slidell and that of Beauregard. But there are hardly any to compare with the palatial residences of New York & Boston. The building material here is chiefly brick or wood. No nice stone. Beauregard had begun a magnificent granite building for the Custom house & it is now used for the P.O. but it was not completed.

Gen. Banks is here & his wife is said to make her appearance sometimes in a \$4,000 dress but he has no control over any military matters now. I suppose he dabbles in the political concerns & perhaps he may do some good in this way. The troops mostly belong to the 19th Army Corps (Gen. Reynolds) or have been stolen from the Deptmt of the Tenn. Gen. Canby says however that they shall all be returned in due time. Active operations are going on in Arkansas now & Gen. Reynolds went up there yesterday or rather started for White River. Capt. Seth Farrington is his Adjutant General now. You will remember him at Bowdoin I suppose.

I feel anxious to hear from you to know whether you or Rowland or both were drafted. I also am dreading to hear - for I can hardly expect to hear that father is still alive. I am in hopes to get a leave of absence now that Atlanta is fallen but I don't know but that Otis will think I have had leave enough in this excursion, especially as there are others of the staff who desire a leave of absence. I shall stop a day or so at Vicksburg & <delta>, I think, at Memphis. I will then hurry back to join Otis.

This morning before Breakfast I took a horseback ride to see portions of the city. This evening Col. Hamlin & Lt. Jackson - both of Maine - are going to take me to ride in a two horse carriage.

May the Lord bless & keep you & direct all your ways is the prayer of  
Yr. Affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard

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11/10/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-160

Head-Quarters Dep't &  
Army of the Tennessee  
Smyrna Camp Ground,  
Ga.

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Head-Quarters Dep't & Army of the Tennessee, [Letterhead]  
Smyrna Camp Ground, Nov 10, 1864.

My dear Mother

I have written to Rowland tonight & it is pretty late but this is the last chance I will have to send a letter north before we cut loose. Otis is here talking with his officers about business.

Lt. Col. Strong whom Otis likes, as do we all, & who is very gentlemanly now tents with Otis. I was already with Capt Beebe when we reduced from tents to "flies" & so we remain together & Otis took in Col. Strong instead of me.

The Paymasters go north tomorrow. The Army is in fine spirits having all rec'd their pay. And tonight we heard by telegraph that Pres. Lincoln was reelected, carrying all the states except Kentucky. I wrote Dellie & Rowland a few days since & you two letters before.

I sent Mr Libbey \$500 already in bonds. this need not be known as perhaps it is best to keep such things private & Mr. Libbey may prefer it. I think he will do well by me always and can be trusted. And Dellie will not wish to be troubled by my business.

We keep perfectly comfortable under our flies. Last night it rained by we have rubber blankets or ponchoes and I was warm and slept well.

I meant to have mentioned in Rowland's latter that the day I received his letter & Willie Dennett's Chaplain Porter called to see me and said he saw Rowland at the Missionary meeting at Worcester. He is said to be a very fine man & we expect to have him preach for us sometimes at Head quarters. He is with the Artillery of the 15th Corps. Rowland will remember him as wearing spectacles.

I was at Marietta today, 4 miles distant, dined with Gen. Giles a <> and then attended Kilpatrick's Cavalry Review. The Squadrons of Mounted men with drawn sabre as they moved over the hills & down into the villages presented a grand sight, while the Bands were playing.

Will not Lizzie come and live with you this Winter [See note] & you get some trusty man to do chores. It is getting late and I will close. Please remember me to Oscar & wife & all our neighbors, to Roland & Cynthia, to Uncle Ensign & Laura. Where is Isabella now? I wish she were with you, to help & be company. Otis had a good letter from Col. Warren Lothrop & answered it <& one> to Lt. Louis. Our Dept. has been curtailed & this relieves Otis of much responsibility and care of that which he could not well attend to if absent on the approaching Campaign so detached as he will necessarily be. As soon as you hear of our being upon the coast either the Gulf or Atlantic your letters should be directed via Washington D.C. With constant love and daily prayers for you dear Mother.

I remain Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Love to Dellie

[Note: Charles step-father, John Gilmore, died on Sept 13, 1864]

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12/27/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-161

Head-Quarters Dep't  
and Army of the  
Tennessee  
Savannah Ga

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Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee, [Letterhead]  
Savannah Ga, Dec 27, 1864

My dear Mother

I am surprised that so long a time has elapsed since I wrote you, but the bustle and business consequent upon the occupation of Savannah furnish the excuse. In fact I did not reach here till three days after the evacuation by the enemy. I had been sent to Hilton Head for siege guns and some boats to be used in the attack upon the city. I left Hd. qrs. (then at the Anderson place) week ago yesterday, the next day after the refusal of Gen. Hardee to surrender. On arriving at Hilton Head I learned from Gen. Foster that the guns we wanted were at Morris Island (off Charleston S. C.). So I took a steamer for Morris Island. A heavy wind had sprung up and we must needs go "outside" as they say, that is, on the open sea beyond the bays and harbors. So we had a rough time.

Mr. Lawrence of Boston (Christian Commission) (whom I may have mentioned to you as with us during the campaign) accompanied me. I was somewhat sick but not very badly off. Did not wish myself dead nor overboard as some say they do under similar circumstances. But we could not get over the Bar into Charleston harbor in the storm so lay at anchor the first night. Finally I went ashore in a small boat with considerable danger of being "swamped" but in safety and finding an old general of the 11th Corps (Schimmelfenig) he assisted me in getting a schooner and loading six siege guns (30 pounder, rifled) and the schooner sailed out over the bar without difficulty being of light draft. Gen. Schimmelfenig gave me a good dinner & took us up to Fort Strong from which we got a good view of Charleston, its harbor & all the celebrated Rebel Forts.

Sumpter seemed very near. They fire no heavy guns from the latter now, but the Rebel Sharp shooters still annoy our men on Morris Is. firing from Ft. Sumpter.

I will not attempt to describe my entire voyage. When I got back to Ft. McAllister in the Ogeeche River. I found that my guns were not needed nor my Rubber boats which I had obtained from the navy in Charleston harbor. It seems that Hardee got starved out. Gen. Sherman had left open one way of escape. We are sorry he did so, but still it is all for the best. Probably it saved life in as much as he could not wait to lay regular siege but would have assaulted the city in a day or two. About 150 guns were taken and some prisoners.

Most of the people remained at home and find the Yankees much more endurable than they had anticipated. The town is perfectly orderly and has been ever since our troops arrived.

What is singular, the Rebel troops and poor Irish made a riot just before we arrived and broke open almost all the stores stealing the corn and other eatables. Poor people, I suppose they were nearly starved. We do not care much that the rich had to disgorge a little for the benefit of their own poor.

We found here many people born in the North, wealthy and probably rebel enough hitherto but now trying to play the part of Union citizens. Two young men by name of Marshall from Hallowell - one of them a school mate of Otis'. Their wives also from the North. Theodore had been in this state for 15 years. Their sister is also here. They owned several plantations in the state.

There is some prospect of my coming home as Otis wishes to send despatches to Washington. The campaign will undoubtedly continue soon.

Since I began this letter an officer brought in the astonishing intelligence Jeff Davis (Pres't of the so called Confederacy) is dead. If so, this may hasten the close of the War.

We have received no mail yet. I returned here last Saturday. We had a review by Gen. Sherman of one

of our Corps that day.

On Sunday we had the novel privilege of attending Church in civil and civilized style. At the Episcopal in the morning and the Presbyterian in the afternoon. The Marshalls attend the Episcopal.

It is strange we get no mail! Our old mail is undoubtedly in the West with our Head quarters. But there has been time to hear from home since you all heard from us as at Savannah. Capt. Gilbreth has received a letter from home written after they had heard from us. In fact his father wrote that Mrs. Howard (Lizzie) had rec'd a letter from Otis and that she was at Leeds. I am glad she is with you, very glad. How happy I would be to be home now & so be with her and you and the dear children.

I may not get farther than Washington. Otis has recommended me for Inspector General of the Army and as soon as I receive that appointment I will feel bound to stay & attend to its duties. It only gives me my old rank of Lieutenant Colonel. But he has also recommended me with some others for brevet rank for "gallant and meritorious conduct. If I get this I will be full Colonel & entitled to wear the eagle but get not extra pay for it.

Otis just came in. We are in a sumptuous house, belonging to Mr. Molyneux, British Consul formerly but now in Europe. Otis wishes me to write some business letters for him and so I will close - with great deal of love to Lizzie, Guy, Grace, Jamie, Chancey & yourself.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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1/30/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-163

Augusta, Maine

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Augusta Jan'y 30 1865  
Evening

Dear Mother

We arrived safely about 1 ½ P.M. All seemed glad to see me here at Mrs. Stinson's. Harry better than I expected. Will go to the Army with me tho' probably not for duty. His cough holds on. I got the Draft from the Bank & have sent it to Uncle Henry in a letter to pay the Life Insurance premium. I settled the bill at Farmer Office & will let Dellie pay me that. The Kennebec Journal Bill was \$2.00 and I will let Mr. Jones pay me & get the money of you.

Otis' coat was done & looks finely - price \$50 - tell Lizzie. They will make me a Vest for \$9- and a double-breasted sack coat of heavy beaver-cloth for \$40.00. I was rather reluctant to pay so dear a price for my coat but really needed something for every day wear this winter and it will be a serviceable coat.

Major Gilbreth called to see me & invited me to dine with him tomorrow with Capt. Stinson. Lt. Murphy U.S.A. was with him. He has lost a leg & seems to feel his loss very sensibly but looks like a smart young man. You remember his trip to Leeds I presume that Winter Otis was at the Arsenal here.

Mrs. Blaine was in this evening & invited us to Tea tomorrow night intending to have some ladies but we had planned to go to the Lecture & so I presume it will be a private Tea. Geo. Wm. Curtis is the speaker & I shall enjoy it more than any young ladies' entertainment that I can conceive of in Augusta.

Mr. Jones will try & find out what is the matter & what will be the best medicine for the horse. She coughed a good deal coming down.

All the people inquire about Mrs. Howard & her little ones. "Why couldn't she have come down with you?" I wished I had invited her as I would have enjoyed her company exceedingly but seems to me I did mention it once & she could not think of it.

My coat will be sent to Boston. I now expect to be able to join Otis from Beaufort S.C. but I may not. I will now close with great deal of love to all - Mother, Lizzie, Guy, Grace, Jaimie & Chancey. I will inclose the note for "Wash" with my kindest wishes. I forgot the note this morning.

Your affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. A letter in Care of Rev. E. B. Webb will reach me for some three days or more as I shall tell him where to redirect. I shall probably spend two days in Boston before I go to Albany. My regards to Hortense to complete the dear family circle. C. H. H.

P.S. no 2. I have drawn forage for one month for two horses & it will be stored in Mrs. Stinson's barn - twenty four pounds of grain per day - 24 x 30 - 720 lbs = about 24 bushels. You can get one half for our horse if you wish or may leave it all for Lizzie. It will be more than she will want for the pony as she can draw every month for two horses for the Gen'l by getting his requisition. He keeps only 3 horses & is entitled to five.

Yrs affy  
C. H. Howard



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2/1/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-165

Augusta [Maine]

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Augusta [Maine] Feb 1st 1865

Dear Mother

Capt Beebe arrived here last night directly from Otis and brought despatches which cause me to postpone my departure till I can see the Governor. I may be here some time yet & I may go tomorrow. I will write you again. Otis wrote me two good long letters. He is well & going forward by this time. Capt Beebe will probably remain with me & Capt Stinson had decided to accompany me back. So you see I have company enough. I will write you more fully tonight. Otis is very well but the rains delay the Army. Love to Lizzie & all the children

I have a good lot of hay & grain for the pony here at Mrs Stinson's all safely stored.

Saw Cousin Laura Ann at her house yesterday A.M. - well.

In Haste

Yr Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I did not put down on your book the last money transactions. The receipt of \$150 from Mr. Bates & paying out the \$100 for Dellie & the \$2.00 by Mr. Jones to the Kennebec Journal.

P.S. Mr. Wingate has just come in with Lizzie's letter & our mail (not brought up last night) will soon arrive with the two for me. Mr. W. just rode up from Augusta.

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2/20/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-166

Head-Quarters  
Department and Army  
of the Tennessee  
Beaufort S.C.

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Head-Quarters Department and Army of the Tennessee [Letterhead]  
Beaufort S.C. Feb 20th 1865

My dear Mother

I have just returned from a visit to Savannah. Spent the Sabbath there going up with Gen. Saxton & party on his boat. There were several ladies among them - Mrs. Saxton. Some of the ladies went to Savannah to teach the Negroes. They are opening many schools. We had a pleasant sail in the General's boat - getting there about 3 P.M. Saturday. Dr. Duncan accompanied me & Capt Stinson. The former had his guitar along & entertained us all on deck with some of his songs on the way.

I was fortunate to find a pleasant boarding place at a home where Prof. Robinson (Kent's Hill) is staying. This saved us expense & was in every respect much more agreeable than the Pulaski House would have been.

The news of the evacuation of Charleston by the Rebels & occupation by our troops reached Savannah yesterday. I hope to visit Charleston tomorrow or next day and possibly may hear from our Army! The report was that Sherman's army was at Columbia S.C. when last heard from. I expect they will reach the coast, however, above or at Charleston S.C. before many days.

Yesterday afternoon I did something very unusual for me on Sunday. I took a ride with horse & carriage and a young lady. Gen. Saxton had decided to return early Monday morning and I was very desirous to visit the celebrated Cemetery "Bonaventure". It was a delightfully mild day, like May or June at home. We had a fine horse and covered buggy. The lady was Miss Langford of Boston or rather from Wyoming near Boston. She had never been in Savannah before and so everything was a novelty to her. The Cemetery is remarkable for its magnificent "Live Oaks" covered with the long hanging moss peculiar to this climate. These noble oaks are arranged in long avenues over which the limbs form a kind of archway and as you look through these shaded avenues they give you the impression of a vista among some old ruins. The marble stones & monuments contrast with the green trees and add to the effect. The Cemetery is by no means so embellished as Mount Auburn or Greenwood, yet there is a natural beauty and fitness about it unequaled by anything I have ever seen. We gathered some rare specimens of Cedar and some holly twigs but my horse was too spirited to leave alone so we spent our time in riding about all the carriage roads.

The churches were not so well filled as usual yesterday in S. The people are showing their dislike to Yankee Pride more than they did. In fact they say Gen. Grover's troops are not to be compared with Sherman's nor his officers for good conduct. I suspect, however, that it is more the old evil one, secession, showing her satanic spirit which had been a little awed by the novelty of the first occupation of the city.

I suppose you will have great rejoicing in the North at the Charleston news. I wish you could enjoy the mild sunshine afternoon. Tell Lizzie she must write pretty often for Steamers come two or three in a fortnight now & we always want letters by every boat. Lots of letters await Otis here but none from Lizzie yet except those I brought.

Love to the little darlings, all at home.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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3/3/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-167

Head-Quarters Dep't  
and Army of the  
Tennessee,  
Beaufort S.C.

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Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee, [Letterhead]  
Beaufort S.C. March 3, 1865

My dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

I believe I have written you oftener than usual since my return but no letters received from you or home yet. It is quite late and my two companions Beebe & Stinson have gone to bed. Stinson coughs a little occasionally but seems no worse than when at home. He does not grow strong as fast as I would like to see him & had hoped.

You will be surprised & perhaps not pleased to learn that I have decided to take command of a negro Regiment. Gen. Saxton invited me to do so of his own suggestion entirely - urging it by all the inducements in his power. At first I told him I thought favorably of the matter but would wish to see the General (Otis) before deciding, but on going to Charleston the other day & finding the men were coming in at the rate of hundreds in a single day so that he desired to begin the organizing of Regiments at once. After renewed solicitations on his part I decided to go to Washington & get the appointments for myself & Beebe as Col & Lt. Col. At Gen. Saxton's request if the authorities will grant them & to attend to some other business for Gen. S. connected with the Corps he is raising.

He gives me the first Regt, thus securing for us the highest rank, allows me to appoint all my officers, selecting them from all the Armies in the United States if I desire. The men will probably be all raised by the time I get back. Beebe will possibly go to work upon the organization before I get back. He will be valuable in drilling as you know I have had very little experience at this. I propose to take for Major a Captain of a Colored Regt. here who has been in service more than five years. He is with his Regt. at Charleston now & familiar with the organization of Colored troops in this Department. Capt. [William H.] Danielson is his name.

Entirely unsolicited and unexpected by Gen. Saxton I proposed his brother [Samuel Willard Saxton] as one of the Captains. He is now 1st Lieut in a Negro Regt. at Charleston & has for some time commanded a company. He was two years at West Point. I propose to get some officers from Maine, some from the Army of the Potomac.

A Qr. Mr. I have I think fortunately hit upon here at Beaufort - a young man who is now serving as clerk in Quarter Master's Dept. & not only completely familiar with the business but said to be enterprising & ambitious. I did think somewhat of Mr. Tappen the son of Rev. Mr. T of Norridgewock who is here in Qr. Mr's employ, but I do not think he would desire it as he has just got a wife & is living in great happiness here in a fine large house & would be compelled to forego all these things. Maj. Whittlesey's brother has written to Gen. S. for a Chaplaincy & perhaps I cannot do better than to take him for one Regiment. It will be named the "106th U.S. Colored Troops".

I thought this was perhaps the very opening for which I have been sort of groping for a few months, thinking you will remember of what I was to do in the future. I thought you & Ella did not much favor my returning to the ministry. This furnishes an opportunity of worthy moral endeavor very attractive to me. I never could consent to go into the Regular Army as it used to be, so aimless and unproductive of moral results. But here will certainly be opened a great field for usefulness to such as have humane & Christian hearts and a purpose to do something for humanity & the Kingdom Christ without special regard to ends distinctively selfish. I wish I could have consulted you & all my friends beforehand but perhaps it is well for me to begin to decide altogether for myself in important matters. Thro' out the war you know I have been so situated as to cultivate self reliance too little and I often think one of the principal defects of my character is a want of independence. It amounts too often to a lack of moral courage and following this a strict and firm adherence to principle. I trust I will have your prayers, that the new undertaking with all the responsibility of a thousand men so completely under my influence, much more so than in a white Regt.

So that I am somewhat in the relation of a father as well as governor, that this new position may not only be wholesome & beneficial to my character but result in mutual good to officers & men, to our country and the Kingdom of our Lord.

Mr. Fuller was willing to be Chaplain of the Maine Regt. but I do not suppose he would care to come down here to take charge of a negro Regt. At any rate perhaps I had better try Mr. Whittlesey as he has made an application for such a place.

You will wish to hear about Charleston. I was glad to go up with Gen. Saxton upon the "Planter" which you remember was brought out of Charleston two or three years ago by the negro pilot Robert Smalls. The same negro returned with us in command of the boat. It was a great triumph for him who had come out a run-away slave & go back as Captain of his Master's boat, now the property of the U.S. Gov't. & he in Gov't employ at \$50 per month. I talked a good deal with him. It was dark & stormy going up. We had to go outside a good deal of the way. It was rough & many were sick but I was not. He steered by compass & chart. Brought us into Stone Inlet as if by a miracle. There we found good harbor & went on to Charleston next forenoon after the fog cleared up. The harbor presented a pleasing picture, with our navy fleet upon the water, the fortified islands upon either side & the city before us. Capt Smalls did not stop for a pilot though he had not been there for about 3 years. Steamed boldly along and up to the dock where he had set out under such trying circumstances. He was made Capt. Because of his courage in running past Rebel batteries with supplies for our troops about a year after his escape when the white Captain with whom he was serving "showed the white feather".

The dock looked rather grass-grown. Some negroes standing there knew Capt. S. & flocked around him seeming to regard him with great admiration. He is a mulatto of rather small size, grand in his motions & speech. You ought to hear him give orders to his mate, a white man, nothing over-bearing or supercilious in his manner but energetic & decided. No superfluous words. He gave up his room to Gen. Saxton & invited me to take my meals there with the Gen'l which I did in company with Maj. Saxton the General's brother & aide. Gen. S. was sick going & returning. Charleston at first sight appeared a good deal dilapidated - all the front street & lower part of the city. Some entire blocks have been burned. You see shell holes through the roofs & sides of the buildings. The city has altogether an old & unthrifty appearance. Harry S. & I got a horse & carriage & rode all over the town. Made some purchases to remember Charleston by. We intended to call at Sumpter but the weather was unfavorable & we deferred it to another time & I now fear I may not have the opportunity to get a <nick> for Ella there as I intended. I may though at some future time.

I dined with Schimmelfennig but slept aboard the boat. No hotels open. Negroes plenty but few respectable whites. Not by any means so pretty a city as Savannah. Not very cleanly.

It grows late for I heard the sentry in front of my door call out in stentorian some half hour since "Eleven o'clock, all's well." Tell David that these Negro soldiers roar like bulls of Bashan when in the middle of the night they shout the hour and say all's well. I hear it go from post to post off into the distance often when I am lying awake. They call out every hour after 9 P.M.

Write me without reference to my absence in W for I will get all your letters & could not <think> of missing any.

Yr Affectionate brother  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Sherman's Army reported by news from the North by Steamer near Charlotte N.C. but I do not think it anything but Kilpatrick. The main Army must be nearer the coast. We hear nothing except by N.Y. papers. C. H. H.

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3/9/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-168

Studio Building  
New York

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Studio Building  
New York  
March 9 1865

My dear Mother

You will be greatly surprised at the above <super sentition>. I am on my way to Washington with despatches from Brevet Maj Gen. Saxton, bearing among other papers a request from him for my appointment as Colonel of a Regiment of Colored troops. I think I have written you of his proposals to me & that after much deliberation - in view of the fact that I could not join our Army & Otis at once. I consented to go to Washington to ascertain & in case the Sec'y of War favors the proposition, to undertake the organization & command of the first Regiment of the Corps of Negro troops which Gen. Saxton proposes to raise.

I go to Washington tomorrow night. We had a very fine passage in 72 hours from Port Royal. I wish my home for the tonight at least could have been transferred to New York. I mean yourself, Lizzie & the darling children. I have sent an express package containing a Palmetto fan for Grace. I am sorry I had nothing for the rest.

I mentioned upon a paper inclosed in that package, two photographs of myself (small size). I find they were not put into that package. I will inclose them in this letter. Not one syllable from any one of my friends in Maine (except a somewhat indifferent one at Bangor) since I left Augusta! What do you think you would do if you were so neglected by those whom you loved. Would you not go wild & — take a darkie Regiment? But seriously you or Lizzie or Rowland or Guy or Grace must write me a letter to Washington D.C. at Washington Hotel.

Lizzie will see that I am in the next best place to house, with my dear friend J. F. Weir, artist. Tell Guy I desire to know whether "Wash" & the pony are alive, well, & capable of kicking. Tell Gracie I visited a Sabbath school of Negro children last Sunday & they all remembered & repeated what her father (Otis) said to them some weeks ago. They promised to pray for him & say they do. Now I told them about Grace and they promised to pray for her too as they do for her father & I agreed to request Grace to pray for these little needy children. Will she do so?

I have several letters to write tonight. Mr Weir is over in Brooklyn with Miss Mary French at the Opera. He had made the engagement before my arrival. I intend to see Otis going from W. to North Carolina, even if I return to Beaufort S.C. as I undoubtedly shall.

Your loving son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I believe I left a red sash at home. Please send it at once by Express to Washington Hotel. Lizzie will assist to find a box & direct it. Be sure that some one writes me without delay.

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3/17/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-169

Washington D.C.  
Cor "K" & 12th Sts.

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Washington D.C.  
Cor "K" & 12th Sts.  
March 17 1865

My dear Mother

I was very happy to get your letter yesterday morning. I have no doubt I will get the others on my arrival at Beaufort. Very sorry to know Ella has been so sick as your letter brought me the first news of the little son added to Rowland's family [Oliver Otis Howard, b Feb 14, 1865]. I am glad they call him Otis. I love that name and do not think they could find a better.

I have seen an officer this evening who left Otis only a week since & who came with our Army all the way from Columbia S.C. The officer is an escaped prisoner of 32d Maine Regt. Capt. Burbank of Limerick, an old College friend of mine. So of course I got lots of news - all good & encouraging.

The Army did not pause at Fayetteville it seems. Two Div'ns of 17th Corps had crossed Cape Fear River when Capt. B. left & he thinks the Army is to go on to Goldsboro before halting. Still if they meet with much opposition they can easily fall back to Fayetteville & will probably renew some of their supplies there. Capt B. knew Maj Whittlesey & says he talked a good deal with the Major.

I am to see Capt B again in the morning. I was intending to go today if the Sash had come. Hope it will arrive before 3 P.M. tomorrow when I intend to take boat down river. If it does not I will have it re-expressed to Beaufort S.C. onto our Head quarters. I will spend a day or two with the Army of the Potomac in Virginia to secure some line officers for my Regt. I rec'd my appointment to the Colonelcy of the 128th U.S. Colored Regt. I feel that it is a great responsibility for me to have as it seems to me the souls & bodies of 1000 men resting upon me. I feel the need of your prayers & those of all my friends that I may have a fitness for the place - a moral & religious preparation, that I may accomplish something - i.e. be the means - for the permanent good of these men and that my Regiment may be an example to others. Rev. Mr. Fuller of Hallowell answers me that he would like to go with me & will consider it.

I attended a prayer meeting tonight - a rare opportunity for me and I trust it will do me good. The subject of feeling a concern for the salvation of others impressed me deeply. One might find an excuse often for not doing anything but no excuse for not feeling or desiring earnestly to win souls to Christ. Rev. Dr. Gurley & Gillet came & spoke to me after the meeting. Lizzie may have seen the latter who knew Otis at an examination of Mr. Willard's school at Troy.

It was great good fortune that gave this room to me while here & this privilege of boarding at a private mess. It not only saves me great expense but is much more agreeable & profitable. I have a quiet time here in my room - gas light - writing materials - books & every convenience. Mr. Kimbal had rented the room for a year & re-let it. The last occupant had given it up lately & Mr. K offered it to me free of rent. I have thousands & thousands of blessings to be thankful to a kind Heavenly Father for. I am often astonished & feel humbled in view of my ill deserts. I will try & heed your exhortation to live near to God. And hope this will be a new epoch of my life in this respect.

I will not seal my letter as I hope to add in the morning that the Sash has arrived. Did Lizzie get an express package containing a Photograph (large) of Otis &c? You did not mention it - address letters now to me

128th U.S.C. Troops  
Beaufort S.C.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I have been reviewing Tactics during leisure hours since I have been here. C.H.H.

P.S. Sat. morning - Sash rec'd. alright. Thanks to Lizzie & love to all at home. C.H.H.

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3/24/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-170

On board Steamer  
"Brady"  
On James River - for  
Ft. Monroe, Virginia

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On board Steamer "Brady"  
On James River - for Ft. Monroe [Virginia]  
March 24, 1865

My dear Mother

You knew of my intention of visiting the Army of the Potomac. I arrived last Sunday & now Friday am on my way to North Carolina. I saw Bv't Maj Gen. Miles who used to be Lieutenant with me on Otis' Staff, slept in same bed with him one night. Found a good many old friends but devoted my time chiefly to my business - that of procuring officers for my Regiment. Dexter Howard I expect will be one of my Captains. I get two or three officers from his Regt (17th) ditto 1st Me. Heavy Artillery & 20th Maine. Day before yesterday I went up river from City Point to visit the Army of the James. Saw the celebrated Dutch Gap Canal. The water now runs through it and I should think it might easily be made passable for boats.

I was the guest of Brig. Gen. Birney who commands a Division of Negro troops. Gen. B. seemed to take pleasure in going about to show me the condition of his command and in giving me all the information he could about the raising &c of Colored troops. I found a College acquaintance on his staff - Kendall of N. H. Capt Atwood, his quarter master, also used to be with us in 2nd Div, 2nd Corps. but he is now away on Leave.

I saw Rev. Mr. Fuller of Hallowell this morning, also before on Sunday. He is a delegate to the Christian Commission. He thinks he will be my Chaplain. I could not well find his equal for that place.

I was happily surprised to meet Mr. <Sumner> of Boston at City Point, who came through the Savannah Campaign with us as an agent of the C.C. He is with me on the boat going down to our Army. So I have the most agreeable company.

We change boats at Ft. Monroe & may be obliged to wait over night for a boat for Newbern. I expect to find the Army near Goldsboro. Will stay at Hd. qrs. only a day or two I think & then go to Beaufort. Have not heard from the latter place since I left.

Perhaps I will add something further if I stay over night at Ft. Monroe.

Love to all at home. Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

Fort Monroe - Frid. Evening.

As I anticipated we (Arthur Lawrence & I) find that we must wait till 10 A.M. tomorrow before we can go on. We go by Steamboat to Norfolk & thence through a Canal into the Sound & to Newbern. This is gratifying as we both feared the passage outside would be very rough as the winds are very strong & have been for several days.

I am at the C.C. rooms. It is so much more agreeable to me than staying the miserable hotels they have at Military Posts. Lawrence & I visited the inside of the Fortress this afternoon. It is a significant Fort built of granite & earth. There is a gravel road around upon the rampart. There are several - some half dozen - of the immense 15 inch Columbiads and many smaller. The houses in the fort look very comfortable, the grounds pleasant. We witnessed a Dress Parade by a Regular battalion, the officers appearing in the old Regular Army Epaulettes, a fine band in showy uniform. Some few officers & ladies were sitting upon settees under the trees and on piazzas as they are wont to do at West Point. I suppose you have got letters from Otis before this. I hope to find late letters from home at our Hd. qrs.

I saw Gen. Grant this morning & talked a little with [him]. He knew me & sent his regards to Otis. Said



he had heard nothing officially from Gen. Sherman since the 11th at Fayetteville but that he thought an Army had got Goldsboro, judging from the Rebel accts.

Tell Lizzie I found Lt John French (Prof. French's son) at Grant's Hd. qrs. with Gen Ingall's, Chief Qr. Mr. Gen Grant gave me some despatches for Gen. Sherman which will facilitate my progress in finding him, getting transportation, &c.

We have had it quite cold today, so that I needed to wear my overcoat & we have a coal fire in the stove in the little cabin of the C.C. where I am writing.

Pray for me, mother, that I may have all the Grace requisite for my new duties & responsibilities. I close for Prayers,

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

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3/27/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-171

Hd. qrs. Army Tenn.  
Goldsboro N. C.

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Hd. qrs. Army Tenn.  
Goldsboro N. C., Mar 27 1865 (Monday)

Dear Mother

Just arrived & find Otis well. Expecting Lizzie via Baltimore & Ft. Monroe Boat to Newbern, Otis hopes to meet her at Ft. Monroe. I am well & will remain several days.

Yours in haste with great affection. (Otis got no mail) Your Son  
C. H. Howard

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4/1/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-172

Head-Quarters Dep't  
and Army of the  
Tennessee  
Goldsboro N. C.

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Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee [Letterhead]  
Goldsboro N. C. April 1st 1865

My dear Mother

It is Saturday evening and we have just arisen from the supper table. I do not expect to be here much longer and I will pen you a letter - one more before leaving the army of the Tennessee.

What a variety of scenes and circumstances has been mine since my letters first began to date from these Hd. qrs. before Atlanta, Georgia. Sometimes I cannot help regretting my absence from the Army during the Carolina campaign. It makes me feel a little like a stranger and interloper when I hear them talking over the adventures and experiences of the march as I do at almost every meal and did at supper tonight. They were talking of the night at Columbia - the burning & sacking of the city. It seems there was a brigade located in town and the men got possession of some liquor. Many of them became drunk and unmanageable before the responsible officers were aware of the fact. Some cotton had been set on fire in the town and some buildings might have caught fire from the burning cotton but soon the infuriated soldiers were spreading the flames. Two thirds of the entire city was consumed. Otis & his staff were up all night. Thousands of people were thrown into the streets in wild despair. The house where Otis was once got on fire & the ladies were dreadfully terrified. But I will not attempt to picture what I did not see. The suffering must have been appalling. Otis is writing his report in a room opposite to this. Just this moment opened the door to ask about the name of a certain Colonel.

So now here, having just read a new order of Gen. Sherman's which makes some transfers of Generals from this Army to that of Gen. Slocum. Otis dislikes to lose his good officers. But we have to acknowledge that we have <needing much> and Gen. Sherman evidently thinks it for the good of his whole army to subtract a little from the Army of the Tennessee to add to the Army of Georgia on the Left Wing. We all regret to lose Major Gen. Mower and Brig. Gen. Walcott. The latter was wounded at the Griswoldville battle on the Savannah campaign. We have good Generals to take the places of those who leave. But you cannot be interested so much as I in these purely military matters.

Maj. Whittlesey started yesterday to meet Lizzie. We have not heard a word from her though Otis has telegraphed three times & asked for answer. I hope she is on the way & not far off for this Army will move by week from next Monday - about the time you get this letter. I desire to remain & see Lizzie & Otis says she may go with me down to visit Beaufort if she will or would like to. I wish she would & Mrs. Saxton would be delighted to have her, but I have little hopes she would consent to be so long absent from the little ones except for the sake of being with Otis. We expect she will bring Guy & Grace along or at least one of them. Guy has become so much of a man he might I should judge be of assistance to his mother in traveling.

It is a beautiful moonlight night - all our doors & windows open - sitting out on the verandah a good deal. Shrubbery in the front garden all in leaf, bright & <thrifty>. The trees rapidly clothing themselves in their Spring attire. Peach trees all decked in luxuriant pink blossoms. They remind of the first part of April 1862 when we first landed upon the Virginia peninsula. I used to notice the Peach trees there because they were the first I had seen in bloom. We landed at Ship Point April 4th 1862. War has had a good deal more of romance lately or is it a change in my feelings! It may be a calousing of my heart towards the disagreeable. But kind Providence has given me many changes for the better since then. What a blessing to be transferred to the West to see so much of our great country and share in the brilliant successes which have not only cheered us but filled the hearts of our people at home with joy.

Capt. Gilbreth has gone home & probably will not return in season for the coming Campaign but Lt. Freeman who used to be with us in the Eleventh Corps & afterwards in the 4th & had left the service has returned & will do Otis good service as he is attached & is a very willing & untiring officer. Capt. Cole from Gen Sherman's staff has also joined us & will also act as Aide de Camp. So I do not expect to be

greatly missed. Otis says my absence during the Carolina Campaign has helped to wean him but it is hard, very hard for me to leave.

He has applied again for Col. Fullerton of the old 4th Corps – the adjutant General. He applied before & failed. I do hope he will get Fullerton as he suits Otis precisely – diligent, respectful, attentive, accurate and always gentlemanly in his deportment. Fullerton never takes of liquor & that can not be said of many of the staff we have had since coming to this Army.

I think Harry Stinson – now Major – will go along – though not able to do duty still he may be able to accompany the Army & his company & constancy of affection for Otis would be a comfort and his judgment is always good where he deems himself competent to judge & he will not pronounce an opinion unless he does think himself qualified to do so.

Tomorrow is the Sabbath. We are to have service here. This is not a very elegant house but is very fair. Our staff occupy four besides Maj. Whittlesey will probably not go along this campaign. He may possibly take a negro Regt. Fullerton arrives – Otis will have staff enough, otherwise I think Maj. Whittlesey will probably go.

I hear from Beebe that six companies of my Regt. have been organized – so it goes on Lt. Sampson of the Signal Corps & who has been with us for two or three campaigns, is writing for Otis this evening. He was along <thro> South & North Carolina & so can help remember as I could not. I am studying Tactics a little – not much as there is so much else to do. I sell my fine bay mare - “Mary Falkner” to Otis for \$200 & another horse which he had left at Beaufort in a disabled condition.

I hope to find a letter or letters from you at B. and one from Gracie & possibly from Guy. Tell Gracie I wish her to write me whether she remembers to pray for those poor little colored children who are just learning fro the first time what it means to pray & who is their Saviour & learning to sing his praises. They promised to pray for “Gracie Howard”, “Gen. Howard’s little girl” as they say they do every night for Gen. Howard who was in at their Sabbath school & talked to them while he was at Beaufort.

I hope Isabella is with you, especially if Lizzie has left to visit us. Isabella is as good as a daughter it seems to me. If she is with you please give her my kindest remembrances & wishes for her happiness. I regretted not seeing her last winter. Lizzie writes that “Wash” is doing well. Tell him I am pleased at this. Sam sends his regards to “Wash”.

Your loving son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I am glad Roland will assist to carry on the farm. I should think he would do better than any one else. Do not arrange so that you will have to work hard, dear mother. Why should you? C.H.H

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4/9/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-173

Baltimore, [Md]

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Baltimore, Apr 9, 1865

My dear Mother

I have just arrived here by Steamer from Ft. Monroe & Morehead City. Left Otis at New Home N.C. Thursday night taking the cars at midnight and reaching Morehead City about 2 ½ a.m.

I met Maj. Stinson & others of our reserve Hd. qrs. just from Beaufort S.C. They say my Regiment is full & I am impatient to get to it. Beebe is doing well. I left Morehead City (which by the way is no city at all, only a few houses and a miserable hotel) about 4 a.m. being first on board the Steamer by a tug. I have two young men with me going down to take commissions in my Regiment.

Yesterday I was delayed all day at Ft. Monroe but could find no boat direct to Port Royal or any point South of Wilmington. But this morning to my great chagrin I find by the paper that the Arago (the best Steamer plying between New York & Hilton Head and which I knew was to leave N. Y. yesterday) is to stop at Ft. Monroe to take on some distinguished personages from Washington going down to the Ft. Sumpter celebration. So if I had known & had remained at Ft. Monroe I might have taken passage direct, saved all this time, secured a good Steamer, and arrived in the South Department in time to witness the grand celebration at Ft. Sumpter.

But there was no way for me to have known of this opportunity as it was not known at Ft. Monroe when I left so I will not "cry over spilt-milk" but will attend church here today, then go on to N.Y. and wait for the next Steamer which will certainly go in a week's time.

I left Otis the night he got Lizzie's letter saying she could not come. We had come down to Newberne to meet her. Maj Whittlesey had come to Baltimore to escort her to Newberne. So of course we were much disappointed. Still if Lizzie had not started till the day her letter left shw would not probably have had much time with Otis as the letter arrived Thursday night & Otis was to return to Goldsboro Monday next.

Gen. Sherman was to move Tuesday but the news from Richmond may change his plans. I hardly think, however, that it will defer his movement as Johnson remains with a small army between him & Raleigh & ought to be taken care of in order that the Confederacy may receive its finishing blow.

I was sorry to hear you were without a girl. Hope you have obtained one before this. Oh so many poor white & black girls as I have seen starving for want of employment, it seems too bad you should be suffering for help. There were a large no. of poor white refugees on the boat last night. A subscription was taken up to provide them with supper & breakfast.

Please tell Grace & Guy I hope to find letters from them at Beaufort, S.C. Those little colored children will wish to know if I have heard from Grace Howard and whether she will pray for them as they do for her father. Remember me to "Wash". I am glad he is doing so well. How does he get on with the  
<resoding>?

I have written to Rowland to mail here. May write in N.Y.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

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4/21/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-174

Hd. qrs. 128th U. S. C.  
T.  
Beaufort S.C.

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Hd. qrs. 128th U. S. C. T.  
Beaufort S.C.  
Apr 21 1865

My dear Mother

I feel a little tired and not much writing but the Steamers go North so seldom I cannot allow one to leave without a word to you.

I had the great satisfaction of attending the grand celebration at Charleston and then came down here on Sunday - taking all day but it was quiet & not unlike the Sabbath on our little boat "<Enoch> Dean".

Prof Robinson of Kents Hill who has been out here for some time as Treasury Agent was on board & his sister who was a school mate of mine & now lives here with her husband who is a trader. Prof. R gave us a sermon & we sang hymns almost all the way. There were two young ladies from Cleveland Ohio on board who had been visiting Mrs. Gen. Saxton at Charleston & whom I had got acquainted with there, accompanying the party to Fort Sumpter - escorting the youngest & prettiest of course - Miss Nettie Baldwin. They are staying at Savannah with their father who is here for his health.

I found four good letters from Rowland here, one enclosing one from you & a short one from Lizzie in which she calls me "a ladies man." This is anything but complimentary. I wonder if I do belong to that species of nobodies.

I am sitting in my tent - sole occupant. It is nothing new for me to live in a tent but here I am "monarch" of all I survey. Have a new desk, new cot bedstead husk mattress and ditto pillow, a pair of decent pillow-cases from home would be very acceptable and by the way if you go to Hallowell before Mr. Fuller comes out (I expect him for my Chaplain some time next month) perhaps you can get him to bring me a bundle. I would like ½ doz good linen shirts if I have them at home and a pair of single sheets. You see I am getting to be a luxurious soldier.

Everything is to my task here in the Regt. The negroes learn easily enough. Drill better than any Regt. of whites in camp some length of time. Are respectful & quite soldierly in their demeanor. Officers seem be well disposed. Lt. Col. Beebe is a treasure for an officer. I expect to get my arms tomorrow. Went to Hilton Head to see about them yesterday. I have enjoyed the use of a horse for the forage so need not hurry about buying again.

Gen. Saxton was out at my Parade tonight. I had Rev. Mr. Peck (Baptist) quite an old gentleman to offer the evening prayer. This last I have established as a customary exercise. The Chaplains in town taking turns till Mr. Fuller arrives. You ought to hear the men singing tonight. They all seem very happy & sing their own peculiar religious songs. The whole Regt. seemed to be singing.

All the roses, orange blossoms & many other flowers are in full bloom so the air is loaded with fragrance. Our hearts are still sorrowful for our national calamity. May the Lord sanctify this & all his providential dealings to our welfare as a nation & as individuals.

I expect Dexter Howard down here soon to take a company.

Yr. Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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5/1/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* [Mother]

CHH-178

[Beaufort S. C.]

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[missing first 4 pages]

[page] (5)

could get Tho J Rose or some one else to go in with him. I would sell it to such a party provided I could first sell the Upland but not until I could do this. I trust Sprague & Pratt closed the bargain for the other land. If they did not I do not care because it is just as well to own that too if we cannot dispose of the whole.

I wish to let or lease the farm & believe you agree with me that it is best to do so. Probably less damage would be done if it can be let at the halves.

There is a temptation to make money off from it when it is hired out.

Tell Oscar (if he calls) that Officers of Colored Regts I find are now appointed by War Dept - after passing an Examining Board; but only 2nd Lieutenants are allowed.

I hope you will be where you can enjoy Religious worship & other privileges this winter without exposing your health.

Tell me about the remainder of your stay at Easton. Pray that I may have great wisdom & abundant Grace for my new & responsible duties. I am, as ever,

Your loving son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Did you receive two photographs I ordered sent to you? C. H. H.

[written in a different hand:]  
Probably from Beaufort, S.C., April or May.

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5/7/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-175

Hd. qrs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S.C.

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Beaufort S.C.  
Hd. qrs. Camp Stanton  
May 7, 1865

Dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

I was surprised this morning by a call from Maj. Whitney of 33d U.S.C. He was introduced by Capt Saxton of my Regt. who formerly belonged to some Regt. Maj. W. told me he was from Farmington & knew you & that he was going to start for home tomorrow. He called again this evening - or rather was at Parade & came into my tent afterwards. Rev. Mr. Harris, Post Chaplain here, said a few words to the Regt. tonight & offered a prayer. It was the only Saervice today as I was disappointed in the preacher I had thought engaged. Mr. H. knew Maj. W. & told me he was a Christian. I read the Major some of your recent letters (recently come into my possession but not ver late date). I have read them over a good many time and hope I will get more like them soon. The Major, it seems, has become a professor of Religion since joining the Army. I had a good talk with him. He speaks in the highest terms of my Major who was a Capt. In his Regt. All that I have seen of Major Danielson accords with these statements. He is faithful & true. His is a Christian & will be in the <> <sympathy> with me I trust. Lt. Col. Beebe has so pious a father & mother & has Lord so good principles instilled into him that he seems to approve of every Religious exercise and Christian measure I adopt though he is not a Religious man. He never uses profane language.

We have as usual a fair cool breeze this evening but it was oppressively hot this morning.

I wonder if I sent you a photograph view of "The Barnwell Plantation". I visited there yesterday. It is 10 miles distant, but Saturday is my play-day. We have but one drill in the morning.

Now the War is over I often have a longing to go home and be with those I love. This is a hard world (is it not?) In which we are so constituted as to love but few and must be separated even from those. I am growing old I think rapidly. Wish I might not lose my youthful glow of feelings but think I am fast doing so. I hope soon to get the military post running so well here that I can devote myself a little to other things pertaining to the moral well being of my men and the Community.

My men seem very happy tonight, singing by moonlight. They generally sing Religious songs. I intended to attend a S.S. for Colored Children at the "Smith Plantation" today but a paper about "<mustering> matters" concerning which there is disagreement & quarreling between General Saxton & General Littlefield (who later mustered in my Regt.) was sent me by Gen. S. & occupied my time till it was too late & what was worse it greatly unsettled my for any Sunday Service. But I rode down (it is 4 miles) & felt the better for the ride & the time of reflection on horseback. Made my excuse for disappointing the S. School, rode back in time for Parade. I wish Maj. W. would join your church. He thinks of leaving the service & then returning here for business.

It is pretty hard for me to relinquish my old purposes of being a Gospel minister, but Providence will direct & the way is clear enough for the present.

Isn't Ella well enough to write me a few lines just to say "How de'?" as our table brethren would express it. I wonder if you have black berries three times a day as we do & <Oh> you ought to snuff the fragrances of the <large> white magnolia blossoms. The orange blossoms are gone now and the scarlet pomegranate flowers have taken their places in the gardens.

Tell Ella I will either get homesick or "get a girl" if she doesn't write me pretty soon.

With much love. Yr. brother  
C. H. Howard



P.S. You must send my letters to mother when you can. C. H. H.

P.S. No. 2. I send you by Maj. W. a brick from Sumpter which I brought away in the memorable 14th April. The "Barnwell Plantation" is one of the wonders of Port Royal Island!

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5/10/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-176

Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S. C.

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"Camp Stanton"  
Beaufort S. C.  
May 10 1865

My dear Mother

I have plenty to busy myself about this evening but I am in the mood to write to you and will indulge myself. It is about 8 ½ P.M. "Taps" have just sounded to silence the many singing voices of the men. They are as happy as any people could be, apparently. It is a full moon tonight. Has been intensely warm part of the time today but our redeeming breeze sprang up as usual this afternoon and it is now cool and delightful.

My officers are still singing and the harmony of their good strong male voices is pleasant upon the evening breeze. I have taken a horseback ride since Parade - galloping, trotting and walking my horse according to my thoughts, thinking fast and of business always insuring a gallop. Reflecting or meditating of the absent allows my horse to slacken down to a walk and trotting is to rest horse and rider when the mind comes back to present scenes. I rode down along the bank of Beaufort River, nothing could be more pleasant. I was gone about an hour and went 3 ½ miles & back - 7 miles. I have the use of a fine large bay horse by furnishing the owner by furnishing the owner with "keeping" for two.

My health has not been better for years than it is now. I am astonished that I am so well. Lt. Col. Beebe is unwell a good deal. He will have a Leave this Summer. I shall miss his companionship much. You know he is the only old mess mate I have here. Dexter Howard [a second cousin, the son of Warren Howard] gave me a pleasant surprise by appearing before Breakfast last Sunday morning. From present appearances he will succeed admirably with his company. I am glad to have so faithful an officer. I hope all my officers will arrive soon. I was disappointed about my Chaplain Mr. Fuller, and I need a Chaplain much. I believe him the most important personage or that he ought to be in a Regiment of this kind.

The regular mail Steamer has sailed (yesterday) so this letter may not go for a week. I get so few letters that I fear I will lose the reckoning of everything at home and all my friends. I imagine Otis is in Maine by this time and that his dear little family is very happy. I am eager to know where Otis will go now. I do so much wish he might come to this Department. I think he could do great good down and find work worthy his ambition as a Christian Soldier and patriot.

They have tried to get my Regt. ordered to Savannah but Gen. Saxton has thus far prevented it. A Colonel there wishes it to make up a brigade for himself to command & Gen. Gillmore who now commands the Dept. is disposed to gratify him. Only two of Gen. Saxton's Regiments had been completed - the other is under my command here. He was in hopes to finish at least two more and then get admitted into the Regular Army as a Brigade, himself the Brigade commander. I care very little what is decided to be done with my Regiment. If it is mustered out I will consider it an indication of Providence that I am not to be a soldier. If not and I succeed in disciplining it - officers and men and can see constant improvement and a prospect of its continuance then I think I may regard it as an indication that I am designed for this work and had better persevere in it. In any case I mean to be superior to circumstances and contented with my lot.

My sentinels are calling out "9 o'clock", "all's well". I go to bed always by 10 as I am up at five in the morning. This evening Chaplain Harris was up to offer the prayer at <Iren> Parade and held a prayer-meeting with the men for half an hour or little more at my school-tent. I have some new benches there now - to facilitate the learning to write.

Here I was interrupted by my adjutant bringing a lot of papers to be signed and now it is my bed time.

I have two tents separated by a kind of verandah formed by a tent-fly. My floor is about two feet from the ground and extends across to my rear tent. When it is very warm in the tents I can sit under the tent-fly, and my rear tent serves as a place of retirement if I choose. I have a comfortable husk mattress and

husk pillow. By the way I have not yet thanked you for the pillow-cases. Just what I wanted. I had some poor ones and they will now serve to preserve these putting them underneath. I recognized Lizzie's hand-writing.

We are still having black-berries three times per day. Our cook is "splendid" to use Ella's expressive word. She is not very young & doesn't relish living in a tent. I fear we may not be able to keep her. Her name is "Aunt Sallie."

I will now add a "good night" & God bless my dear mother. From her loving son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Saturday morn. May 13. My letter could not go before. Am well and everything prosperous. Dexter H. is well. Rec'd letters from Rowland & Dellie last night. Rowland wrote the sad news of the death of Albert Patten [Rowland's brother-in-law, David Albert Patten, a ship captain who died at sea]. Dellie writes that he has been admitted to the Bar. I am pleased that he has been so diligent and successful. He will soon be with you, perhaps before this letter. Says you are alone. Hope Rosa [Rosa Ellen Deane, Dellie's future wife] will keep you company for a while as Dellie suggests that she may. Glad "Wash" is doing so well. Tell him that "Jim" <> suit me as well as he ("Wash") used to. "Jim" and "Albert" are learning to read quite well. Does Wash have any teacher now Grace has gone.

With much love, Yr Son  
C.H.H.

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5/23/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-177

Hd. qrs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S.C.

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Hd. qrs. "Camp Stanton"  
Beaufort S.C.  
May 23 1865

My dear Mother

Imagine my satisfaction last Sabbath evening at the receipt of nine (9) good fat letters. One from yourself, one from Rowland. One from Bangor, one from Mr. Fuller of Hallowell, 3 from Otis & the rest more indifferent. Yours was as late as May 7th inst.

I had done down to "the Grove" a plantation below just before Sun-set to attend a Sabbath-School for Colored Children. They are the ones whom Otis interested so much. I wrote some message to little Grace about them but never got an answer. It is Miss Botume's school assisted by a niece of hers Miss Fannie Langdon & by some gentlemen usually from Beaufort. It is a delightful grove of Live Oaks draped with the long moss peculiar to this section of our Country or rather to this latitude. I stayed at Tea - taking pleasant strolls along the river bank under the shade of the oaks, magnolias, & other beautiful trees. The oleanders are in full bloom. I remarked to the company that it would do mother good to see these luxuriant oleanders. They are as large as the group of lilacs in our front garden at home and, if anything, taller - more tree-like even than the lilacs. The Pomegranates are now in bloom, very plenty in this region, such a beautiful scarlet. They are not fragrant like the oleanders however.

The feast of letters when I returned was a magnificent finale to the pleasant evening at "the Grove". I think I sent you a photograph of a tree or the chapel of this plantation. It is sometimes called the "Old Fort" from an old Spanish ruin of a shell fort still visible there.

Your letter gave me a picture of home very grateful I assure you. If I reflected too much upon such, however, it would I fear make me discontented here. I am very glad "Wash" is so good & efficient. Tell him I say he could not have a better place. He is doing good by helping my mother while I am spending all my time teaching colored men. I have to teach them how to be men, teach them manners, morals, how to think and talk, read, write, teach them how to stand erect and call no man master and at the same time how to obey wholesome rules and laws, and regulate all their habits. Most of them have learned how to keep their persons & clothes neat and clean and present quite a manly appearance as they come out just before Sun-set for dress-parade and evening prayer.

It is almost time for my afternoon drill - "battalion drill" from 3 till 5 p.m. We have a good breeze today from the Ocean. But yesterday there was no air stirring - the Sun was hot and though I was mounted and therefore was somewhat above the dust and heated ground yet the heat was rather oppressive. It is rare that we have no afternoon breeze.

I think "Wash" will not labor in vain in getting in early potatoes &c for Otis will undoubtedly be at home to enjoy them. I have had no potatoes yet but have had some green peas & expect to have potatoes in a few days.

Otis wrote from Washington or rather [from undated] got Maj. Stinson to write for him. I got one letter by his own hand (Otis') from Petersburg. It seems he has been put in charge of the Freedman's bureau. He has not had much experience in such matters but good common sense and the power of attention & application to business which he possesses will soon make him master of the situation.

I wish he would make a tour of inspection to find out the need of the Freedmen & would come down here soon. I trust he will do so eventually. How rejoiced I should be to have him or any of the dear friends I prize most highly come here and see my splendid Regiment. I feel very proud of it but see work for a lifetime, in relation to it, still before me - to make these men all good soldiers and the regiment a model one in all military matters and at the same time to prepare these men for good citizens. The moral and religious education must come chiefly from example. How much then I & the officers associated with me need grace from Above and to this end need the prayers of all Christians.

Rev. Mr. Fuller you will have learned cannot come as my Chaplain. I somewhat expect Rev. Mr. Noble, also of my Seminary Class, and lately preaching at Winthrop. He is now at City Point Va. Agent of C.C. I don't know now how you will be able to forward the shirts & sheets. It is not very important for me to have them. I fancied I would try & be a little civilized, after going without those badges of civilization for four (4) years.

With love to my brothers & their precious families. (I hope Dellie is with you).

Your affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I believe I have not enjoyed so good health as now for 8 or 10 years or perhaps never! My kind Heavenly Father be thanked for this and all his bounteous blessings! C. H. H.

P.S. No 2. Tell "Wash" that "Jim" is here & thinks he has to work very hard. Albert, Col. Beebe's man, is also an acquaintance of "Wash".

P.S. No. 3. I hope you will write me often this Summer, dear Mother.

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6/12/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-179

Hd. Qrs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S. C.

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Hd. Qrs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S. C.  
Jun 12th 1865

My dear Mother

You are the only person to whom I would presume to begin a letter upon so huge a sheet. But I am sure I can fill it if not interrupted in the hour before me till Battalion drill at 3 P.M. Besides the thunder is grumbling in the sky and clouds accumulating so we may have a grateful shower instead of a hot and tiresome drill. Rain is always welcome here. But we manage to get the better of the heat usually. I have now as a covering of my verandah between my two tents, instead of the tent-fly, a framework of rough poles, with bark on, covered with the long Southern moss which I have described to you in former letters I think. It will grow even when spread out in this way as a roof. This gives me one place always shady and cool. The hanging moss too is pretty & picturesque to see.

I have had some other improvements about my quarters. A tall flagstaff erected in front of my tent with a handsome new flag floating in the breeze, a terraced mound at its foot and the sandy surface in front of my tent all covered with grass-grown sods.

As I look in across my "Verandah" and through my rear tent a picture meets my eyes too pleasing not to mention to you - a beautiful bouquet of Oleanders (if they are properly called Oleanders) skillfully arranged with vines asparagus &c. so as to be doubly attractive. This was a present sent me this morning by the ladies from "Old Fort" Plantation two or three miles below. The Oleanders have a fragrance like our grass-pinks and are not unlike them except that they are as large as a Cinnamon rose. They have a bright pink color. Their immense shrubbery I believe I have described to you. It is said they continue to blossom until Fall. One of those Oleander trees or bushes standing all in bloom among the green of the magnolias and other trees and shrubbery, is one of the most pleasing of rich nature's luxuriant offerings in this region.

Another new feature of my rear tent is the flower of the "Spanish Dagger" (a present also) which is also upon a grand scale. It looks like a lot of Pond lilies strung together so as to make a compact bunch larger than a water-pail. There are above 500 of these flowers upon one stalk for I had my boy "Jim" count them this morning (519). This huge bouquet of nature's own making, grows upon the top of the flag-like shrub named "Spanish Dagger" from the dagger-like sharpness of the leaf. It looks a little like a young palmetto.

Since I wrote you Capt. Cole has been here from Otis. He only spent one night but it was very refreshing to me to see some one to tell me all about one who is almost a part of myself so closely have I been associated with him for the past 4 years. Besides he could tell me about the Army and my many friends there and in fact before he came there was a great dearth here of information of every kind from the North.

I am very glad Lizzie is once again with Otis & I wonder when he will have the Children there. I am not at all weaned from my Northern home & friends. Today have been thinking & a thinking & almost a wishing which you know is not proper for a philosopher and a sailor who has got well out upon the sea of life. But my heart must be a little too domestic for this world or the manner I have lately drifted out into the world I think. However things adapt themselves to each other & I shall get used to the status to which Providence assigns me. I saw a telegram from Otis today to Gen. Saxton, in answer to one Gen. S. had sent asking if he (Gen. S.) should come to Washington. Gen Saxton will go next Steamer I think. If I could be assured that my Regiment would remain in charge of Gen. Saxton I should be well satisfied. But there is no certainty of this. And if turned over to Gen. Gillmore we will probably be sent to Savannah or Charleston or elsewhere. I am too old a soldier to murmur at any order that may come but beforehand I can hope that we may remain here where we have become wanted and where the officers above me are congenial. Besides here I have charge of two Regiments & my rank would hardly entitle me to this elsewhere.

Capt. Cole brought me the Brevet appointment of Colonel of Volunteers from the President for "gallant and meritorious services" as it reads. So I am Colonel exclusive of my Regiment. I am of course pleased at this honor although it is profitless in all except such a gratification. It was given before my Commission in this Regt although I did not know of it till now.

I got letter from Dellie saying he was going directly to Indiana. How seldom I hear from you. But your letter of May 7th was received & did me much good. Does Wash continue to drive you to Church? Give him my kind remembrances.

The drum sounds for drill & it will not rain - the sprinkling has even ceased - but the burning sun is covered by a cloud & it will only be a pleasure to drill. There is a good breeze.

Pray that Providence may guide me in all things & make me an active & efficient member of the Church of Christ. Wish Rowland would write, but I forget that the last Steamer failed to bring the mail & I may get a double portion of letters next time.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

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6/26/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-180

Hd. qrs. Post Beaufort

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Hd. qrs. Post Beaufort  
June 26 1865

Dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I have not time to write even a page. But I had expected to go North on this Steamer. Could not finish the business of Examining Board I was on - organization of Courts in my district &c. &c & so did not apply for my Leave. Have been on the Ex. Board all day & all evening - am very tired but well. My health & strength was never better in my life. My love to mother & to Rosa if you have opportunity to convey so delicate a message!

To bed! To sleep! To dream! Perhaps of home which I hope to see in two weeks, starting from here 8 days from tomorrow (Friday) if I can get a Leave.

Your loving brother  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Can't you wait till I come home?

[The second page is written in another hand and may not belong to this letter]

On Road Northerly on line of land belonging to William Lerner G. Lerner 160 rods to Brook, thence Westerly on the line of the Coffin Brook (20 mile Brook) 100 Rods to land owned by Henry M Brewster to a Stake. Thence Southerly by land owned by Salmon Brewster to County Road leading from Coffins Mills to Androscoggin, thence Easterly by the County Road aforesaid to bounds before mentioned containing 71 Acres, 100 Rods.

Cyrus M. Pratt  
Virgil H. Sprague



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7/9/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-181

Hd. qrs. Post  
Beaufort S.C.

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Hd. qrs. Post of Beaufort S.C.  
July 9 1865

My dear Mother

It is Sunday about 2 P.M. I have just finished dinner. It is very warm and I feel rather dull for this reason & because I did not sleep well last night. It was too warm & the breeze dying out when the tide went out, the mosquitoes came in in swarms.

I have not written you since I was assigned to the Command of this Post. I am now in a house - a fine large mansion with broad piazza & upper balcony. My cares are great & duties now much more arduous though they will not be so much so by & by when I get everything in order to my mind.

I now have three full Regiments and two batteries under my command. A good sized brigade. Besides the two I had viz. 128th & 104th I have now the 26th U. S. C. Infy., 3d Rhode Island Artillery & 2nd U.S. Colored Artillery.

All the regulation of the town, together with this & neighboring islands and a portion of the main land of South Carolina as far as the Combahee River falls to my lot.

I did not care to leave my Regiment & the command I had there ("Camp Stanton"). Everything was running very smoothly & with much greater ease to myself than at first. I had given up the tiresome battalion drill in the hot sun in the afternoon & substituted a school for each company taught by a Company Officer. Had awnings built of poles and the celebrated long moss which we gather from the live oak trees. These afford school rooms, i.e. shelter from the Sun & I think the men much rather go to school into this shelter than stay in their company streets & tents exposed to the heat.

I thought pretty strongly of going North with Gen. Saxton & so meeting Rowland & Otis at Gettysburg but Lt. Col. Beebe was absent & so I decided not to go. Now I do not know that I can go this Summer though I hope to go the last of this month or the first of August.

Gen. Saxton talked of appointing me Asst. Com'r Freedmen but I do not know precisely what place he was going to offer me.

We are having it 105° in the shade. It is burning in the sun I assure you & I have been sitting upon an Examining Board at Hilton Head during last week where it seems even warmer than here as there they have no trees.

I was appointed in place of Gen. Potter (Bvt. Maj. Gen.) who has gone North. We are examining all the officers of the District. I was not sorry to be upon the Board as it gives me opportunity to get familiar with those matters in case I may have to be examined. It reduces the likelihood, also, of such an ordeal for myself.

It is examining with a view to giving a list to the War Department from which Regular Officers may be selected in case the Army is enlarged.

My health continues very good. I only wish I could have some more of my friends with me. I have control now of plenty of fine horses, carriages &c. &c. & think I could make any of my friends quite contented here for a while at least.

My Adj. Gen. or Post Adj. is Capt. Saxton, brother of Gen. S. I selected him from my Regiment, not only because he was as well qualified as any but also because his health was not very good & I thought a change would do him good.

I have unfortunately had no time to go to Church today, though there was preaching at two places - one

place chiefly to the negroes.

I hope you are well. Dellie wrote once from Rich'nd.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Give love to Wash. Tell him "Jim" likes living in house as I am now better than in a tent. Tell him I have two new horses, both very handsome - one bay, the other black.

P.S. Dexter H. [Howard] is well but has lost partially his hearing - effects of his wound I think.

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7/11/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-182

Hd. qrs. Post of  
Beaufort

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Hd. qrs. Post of Beaufort  
Tuesday July 11 1865

Dear Mother:

I was delighted last evening to get your letter of July 3d. The Steamer had arrived Saturday but your letter got delayed probably at Hilton Head.

I am sorry I have not always mentioned Dexter Howard. He is now enjoying good health and in command of his Company. I am not much at the Regt. but see some of the officers every day & generally visit it once every day. There is little doubt that it will remain permanently at this Post now, and there is not a healthier or pleasanter place in all the South I suppose.

I shall write to Ella. My time is much occupied. I have about 20 letters behind hand to answer. I hope still to go North the last of this month or the 1st of Aug. Lt. Col. Beebe wrote me from Belfort where he met with a "cordial reception" from his lady-love & her parents. I go to Hilton Head on the Steamboat (15 miles) this morning at 8. My Breakfast is ready. It is after 7 o'clock. I will try to heed your good counsel not to be absorbed in the vanities of this world.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

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9/27/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-183

Beaufort S. C.

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Beaufort S. C.  
Sept 27 1865

My dear Mother

I have written to Rowland, Otis & Dellie today and now it is evening. I will end by a little converse with you. I think I did not write anyone about my good fortune in attending Mr. Beecher's Prayer meeting last Friday night. I enjoyed much Mr. Beecher's talk, the singing, the fervent prayers and practical brief remarks of other Christians. Mrs. Alvord went with me & then we returned to Jersey city, to her house. We had all taken Tea at her mother's & sister's (Mrs. Peck's) at 29 Cranberry St. Brooklyn. Mr Alvord has two little boys - one about 9, terribly afflicted with Asthma but a very bright boy - the other 4 years old and a girl some 16 or 18 years old, now going to school in N. Y.

Mr. A. & wife made my stay with them so pleasant in every way that I shall delight to visit them again. Saturday he & I started about 9 for N. Y. & as the Steamer was to go at 10 A.M. we went directly to the Dock & I did not undertake to go up to the Hotel even but I met Capt. Ketchum at the Steamer (with whom I stayed when I was before in N.Y. you remember) & several other friends - some acquaintances, clerks & others, going South but no one in whom I was greatly interested. I left some errands for Mr. Alvord to do & send the results to me by Capt. K. who is to come by the next trip of the Empire City. I found this Steamer rather warm with hard use during the War but being the ranking officer I was given as good a room as was to be found & the pleasanter for being on deck.

Gen. [Truman] Seymour, an old Army officer who married my friend John Weir's sister [Louisa] was a passenger but he had been mustered out as a General & returned to his old rank in the Regular Army - a Captain & was going to join his Company at Hilton Head. He was an agreeable companion, introducing himself soon after we started. His wife also was a passenger but so sick that I did not have the pleasure of her company except when we first started & just before we reached Hilton Head. She is a lovely lady & says she has often heard her brother John speak of me. Gen. S. told me that John is now painting a picture for which he is to have six thousand dollars. This will be a pretty good year's salary. I saw the Painting last Winter when I was in his studio but it was then but just begun.

Well, our passage was the pleasantest, the last three day's bright & breezy. I wrote somewhat on Monday. Read on Sunday until evening. Talked a good deal with Gen. Seymour who has traveled in Europe & is a man of superior culture. He was in the Mexican War, of course feels rather sore that he is mustered out while many other younger officers & who are not in the regular Army, are retained. He intends to stick by until he gets to be Major & then be "retired", which he can be easily as he has been a good many years in service and his health is now much impaired, being troubled with Bronchitis. An officer on the "retired list" has considerably more than half pay.

I came up Beaufort River towards Sunset - a delightful sail. But I had heard on landing at Hilton Head of much sickness among my officers, that Lt. Col. B. had gone home sick, that Gen. Saxton was just off for Charleston, so I was rather sober & reflective - almost if not quite regretful as I came up the beautiful familiar river. I saw the places where I had enjoyed the Spring & Summer months so much & which now seemed to have a shade thrown over them as I was to go away & never probably have my home here any more. Some acquaintances & friends who had been very dear I would never again meet in these familiar and interesting places & probably never meet anywhere in this world.

The Sun was sinking & Beaufort presented a charming picture crowning picturesquely the head of the Bay with its white houses, church spires, masts of vessels & green trees. It always presents its best face to our approaching from below on the water. I immediately saw Gen. Saxton & found he was off for Charleston that night at 10 P.M.

The Major (Saxton), the General's brother & aide met me at the boat. All congratulated me on my "Star". [Charles was promoted to Brevet Brigadier-General on 15 Aug 1865.] By the way I donned the star in Washington. "Sour" (Otis's servant) sewing on my new stripes for me - Mrs. Alvord put on another pair upon my old coat & a Tailor put on the buttons which you talked somewhat of doing. So my old coat is good as new & I was almost sorry I had bought the new one.

I found Dexter just recovering from sickness & this morning wrote his father about him. I saw him again tonight & am going to try & get a leave for him so that he can leave on the next Steamer in about a week hence.

I go to Charleston in a few days. Found my rooms newly painted. My cow & horse, "Jim", Aunt Sallie", Capt Rundlett my Quarter Master, all well & seemingly glad to welcome me back with such comforts, luxuries, & greetings as each could offer. It is getting late & I will say Good night & God bless you.

A letter from Dellie reached me last night, probably coming on the same Steamer with me. He seems to think Messrs. Sprague & Pratt ought to have paid something down but I have written him that I did not care about that. We preferred to sell it to good paymasters & give them all the time they desired. He goes to Clinton Iowa the 9th of October.

Write me how you got home, how Joan got along, how "Wash" is &c. &c. Wash's wife has gone to Lynchburg but Otis will try again to find her there as no doubt he will. Write me how your health is and if you keep up good spirits. Have you met your Sabbath School class since your return from Easton? I missed family worship at Mr. Ames' did you not?

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I told Dellie I would let him have money if he needed taking one of those Sprague & Pratt notes for my pay if he wished me to do so.

P.S. No 2. Thermometer was 86° in shade yesterday but there is always a good Sea breeze. I visited my Regt tonight and spoke to them. They looked very neat & soldierly.

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9/27/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

CHH-184

Beaufort S. C.

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Beaufort S. C.  
Sept. 27 1865  
Wednesday

Dear brother Rowland [B. Howard]

I arrived here last night after a pleasant passage from N. Y. in three days. I was glad to find your letter at Howard Hotel Friday morning. I spent Thursday night in Jersey City with Mr. Alvord and ditto Friday night after spending the evening in Brooklyn, taking Tea at his wife's mother's and attending Mr. Beecher's Prayer meeting.

It is early in the morning and I cannot help exclaiming in Mrs. Lee's words "O lovely Beaufort"! The air seems clearer, the sky bluer, the Sun-shine brighter, the birds <manier> and the whole picture of the bay & its environs, looking from my window, seems more pleasing to the eye than any place I have visited in my absence. The brightness & cheerful aspect of nature this morning & my sweet sleep last night has done much to dispel the disagreeable feelings of last night.

For everything in the matter of business, military, the Bureau, the state of society in S.C. and other <more> particular personal circumstances tended to <disturb> and make be sad.

I knew at Washington that Gen. Saxton was to move Hd. Qrs. To Charleston but thought I would perhaps get back before he left. I found him here but all packed up & he with his family & Maj. Saxton, in fact everything of his household & his office were on the boat and left at 10 in the evening.

It was a pleasant moonlight evening. I mounted my horse & rode with my Quarter Master to see Maj. Danielson. Had learned before that Lt. Col. Beebe had gone North sick. Maj. D. has been sick, his wife, Mrs. Noble, Capt (Dexter) Howard, in fact a great many more of my officers. Maj. D. informed me of a good deal of trouble in the Regt. but he is better & will be able to attend to it now. Dexter I then went to see & found he was improving but had been very sick. I wrote to Uncle Warren this morning.

My Qr. Mr. has had my two rooms painted & every thing put in fine order for my comfort here so it is quite a disappointment to go to Charleston. Yet I would not care to stay here alone. It will be rather lonely here with Hd. Qrs. Of the bureau removed.

Two officers have been lately murdered back here in S. C. & a fearful state of things seems to exist. Returned Rebel soldiers lounging round the hotels with nothing to do. I wish I was in command of the Department. Gov. Perry I fear from what Gen Saxton says is little better than an old Rebel, tho' his address to the Convention sounded much better than South Carolina speeches of 4 years ago. You saw it I suppose. I wonder if the Democratic Party is willing to sustain his assumption that ours is a White Man's Gov't. Is this a White Man's World? God seems to have given a place to the black man in it.

Breaking up here, seeing my Regt. rather degenerating, severing all the pleasant associations of place & people etc. etc. (How foolishly the heart

[missing page 5]

-cient Creator who has made him black and at the same time an intelligent moral agent? I must close with love to Ella & Dadie and sweet little baby Otis.

From your Affectionate br  
C. H. Howard  
Col. 128th U. S. C. T.  
Brevet Brig. Gen. <Vols.>

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10/8/1865      *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-185

No. 4 Meeting St.  
Charleston S.C.

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No. 4 Meeting St.  
Charleston S.C.  
Oct 8 1865

My dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

I am going on a tour of inspection, intending to start for Columbia tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock and may not write for the week I am about from this city.

It is cool fine weather, like our pleasantest in September and I am enjoying excellent health, better than while at home. Have plenty to do & think of & this is conducive to health you know.

I like my new situation, particularly because it seems to be a niche in the world made on purpose for me. I seem well adapted to work with Gen. Saxton. During the past week I have written many of his official Communications and have gone in his stead several times to arrange with the Mayor various matters concerning the destitute in this city. I have to do with the cause of education and can lend a hand to all our benevolent societies for the North.

The newspapers here cry out against the Freedmen's Bureau - Call it only an irritant to prevent the natural healing of the several parts of Society in the South. But the real trouble is they desire to have full liberty to deal with the negro as they please, and the fact that they wish to get rid of this Bureau which is entirely philanthropic in its objects, proves to me that they desire and intend if they can, to put the foot again upon the neck of the black man.

I attended Church at the Episcopal (Wentworth St) this morning. Good music. Very indifferent Sermon. Large Congregation. Rather an elegant house. I am uncertain whether I will return before another Sunday or not - probably will.

Week ago today I came from Beaufort on the Planter. Cap. Robt Small. Was almost alone. Read three of Bushnell's sermons - one aloud to Small & the Pilot. It was about Christian Ability, comparing it to the power of the Rudder or helm with the ship. I suppose you have Dr. B's later volume.

I am living very cozily, quietly & agreeably with Maj. Saxton, his wife & little Eddie (two years old). Tell Dadie Eddie is almost as heavy as he but he gets tired when we walk a long way up town & asks to be carried. He cannot talk much except by gestures or signs. Is a blue eyed, light haired & rather handsome little fellow. His eye lashes dark and long. We have beautiful roses in bloom "Blush" "Tea" & "Cinnamon" and "Morning Glories" in all their glory. Oleanders still bloom & flourish both pink & white.

There will be great suffering among the Freed people this winter - destitution of food, clothing & medical attendance. We are expecting to relinquish our house any day as all this property now reverts to the owners.

How is mother? Love to Ella & Dadie. Does little Otis laugh much? & how is the Whooping Cough?

Your Affectionate Br.  
C. H. Howard

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10/23/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-186

Charleston, S. C.

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Charleston, S. C.

Oct. 23 1865

My dear Mother

Your letter reached me today. Rowland & Otis are with us, the former in our house. Otis at Gen. Saxton's. They came last Tuesday week ago tomorrow. I went to Columbia with Otis & Major Stinson. Rowland had the misfortune to get the Diarrhea & was not able to go with us either to Edisto Island on Thursday or to Columbia on Friday. He is all well again now, however, and we expect to start for Savannah tomorrow morning at 7 o'clock.

I have been over at Gen. Saxton's this evening. Otis seems cheerful & well. It was a pity to disappoint the negroes about the Sea Islands as they thought they were to have possession three years & then be allowed to buy the land. But the President having pardoned all the Rebels feels bound to restore their property. Gen. Saxton will probably be removed as he is not satisfactory to the President nor the old citizens of South Carolina i.e. the whites. The negroes think him their best friend.

It is late & I am to start pretty early so will have to write hastily. I was very glad indeed to get this the first letter since parting from you at Easton. I was sorry to hear from Rowland that you thought I was not sufficiently polite to Mr. Ames. I saw him every day I remained in Boston & I am sure he did not think me impolite as he saw that I could not easily go out to Easton again. I have written him a letter.

I received a letter from Dellie by same mail as yours. He wrote from Cedar Rapids & seems to like the place much. Thinks it quite probable he may return there & go into business though he will first go on farther.

I was very sorry "Wash's" wife was not found but as they heard about her I have no doubt she will be found bye & bye and I like the idea of leasing the farm to Wash quite well. I shall expect him to do well, saving something for himself & taking good care of the property. I have the necessary data for transferring my Mortgage which I have with me & will attend to it as soon as I get time.

I am a good deal pressed by business just now. Am proposing to go to Florida with Otis & Rowland. Mr. Alvord, also, is stopping here with me. Our home (with Major Saxton & wife) is very pleasant & happy. Major S. & wife both said I must write you to come down. They said this tonight but if Gen. Saxton is ordered away I suspect we will all be broken up. I may remain in the State for the present or I may go to Washington or possibly elsewhere. Providence will indicate.

If my writing is fluid tonight you may lay it partly to the fact that I have signed my name 180 times within the last hour and about 500 times today.

I am very glad Rowland had this opportunity of visiting the South. We rode out to Magnolia Cemetery this P.M. He & Mrs. S. in a carriage with little Eddie Saxton & the Major & I on horseback.

We have a pleasant sitting room on 2nd floor - good cool fire in the grate. Everybody else in bed now as it is past ten o'clock.

We all enjoyed your letter. Sorry Albert is not contented. Hope you will write other letters for Wash to Albert and that Wash will tell him to be satisfied for this Winter & then if he don't like Belfast he can come in the Spring to work for some one in Leeds - in case he can so arrange with Dr. Monroe. But Dr. M. was put to a good deal of expense and Albert ought to stay contentedly for 6 or 8 months. Rowland preached to a Colored Congregation last Sunday morning & Otis spoke to a crowded house of Colored people at 4 P.M. An immense audience.

Did you get a letter from me from Columbia? Or did you see one I wrote Rowland from that place? I will close with a good night & prayer for a peaceful cheerful spirit for my dear Mother.

From Her Affectionate Son



C. H. Howard

P.S. Dellie wrote in excellent spirits Have you heard from Easton since you were there?

C. H. H.

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10/26/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-187

On Steamboat  
"Canonicus"  
In Wassaw Sound  
(Georgia Coast)

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On Steamboat "Canonicus"  
In Wassaw Sound (Georgia Coast)  
Oct 26th 1865

Dear Mother

I wrote you from Charleston and since have spent one day in passage from that city to Savannah, stopping at Hilton Head an hour or two to see Gen. Gillmore. It is an unusual privilege to have both Otis & Rowland for companions. We slept in the boat last night arriving at the dock late in the night. I was very sorry Rowland could not have run up to Beaufort to see the place where I have spent so much time and very happily and one so celebrated in the War. But we rode about so much on horseback. Visited the Schools for Colored Children - Otis & Dr. Missey of England addressing one and Rowland speaking to others while Otis went to see the military authorities. Otis also met some of the white people (citizens) at the hotel and at one P.M. addressed a large audience of Colored & white at a Church.

All the intermediate time with Otis (between the public efforts) is consumed and filled up with talking sometimes with the Bureau officers on business & sometimes with the Citizens who come to see him so that he gets very little time to rest or reflect and I think it a constant wonder that he holds out so well. He is having a good quiet night at anchor here on the Sound.

We came down Savannah River starting at 5 P.M., turned to the right into Augustine Creek to Thunderbolt thence through Wilmington River to Wassaw Sound where we anchor till Daylight.

Rowland is writing at the table with me - probably to Ella or possibly a journal of today's doings. Mr. Alvord has just retired. We have only one other passenger besides those named (our own party) and that is a one legged Confederate Soldier with whom we got acquainted the other night in coming down on the Freight train from Columbia to Charleston. Otis then took pity on him & offered him the passage to Florida learning that he was desirous of going. He seems to be a sensible nice young man. Lost his leg before Richmond. His name is Richmond.

It is very quiet here and our boat does not move more than your own house upon the solid ground.

Who do you think met Otis & introduced himself - a soldier at Savannah? Everett Bridgham! [Everett Bridgham is Charles' first cousin, the son of Dr. Thomas Bridgham and Aurelia Howard.] We did not know him so much disguised by soldier's clothes, the growth of his whiskers and having become quite fleshy. He looked a little forlorn, as I saw him standing waiting to speak to Otis. I thought him some Maine Soldier whom perhaps Otis might have met in the War or whose family Otis might possibly know but did not imagine it was our own Cousin till he came up & spoke to me and says "Isn't this Charley Howard" - I said "yes" but "who are you." He then said "Everett Bridgham!" We were just leaving on the boat & he desired Otis to assist him to get a furlough. Otis asked an officer whom we know & who remained in Savannah to request it for him (Otis) from the proper Military Authorities.

I did not answer your question about the Jeweler who had your Watch. I am not positively certain but think it was Swan. He took your name. I am sorry to have you alone. Hope you will get some one for company and I like the idea of leasing the place to Wash if his wife can be found as I trust she can and will when Otis gets back. I shall go no farther than Florida but the rest go on to Mobile & New Orleans. I return to Charleston in a few days.

I have fixed the mortgage & will send it by mail to Mr. Libby to have it properly recorded and to show to Pratt & Sprague though it will not be delivered I suppose because it covers more than the amount of their two notes. It clears the land they bought.

I wrote to Dellie, mailing at Savannah, addressing him at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

I may add more to this as I suppose it will not reach you any sooner if I mail it in Florida than if I take it back with me upon this boat. Rowland has now gone to his State-Room leaving me alone & I will close with a good night & God bless you.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

Address as before  
Headquarters Asst. Commissioner  
Charleston S.C.

P.S. All well at Fernandina at 8 o'clock Friday night. We send this North tonight. Go on to Jacksonville tomorrow & Otis thence to Tallahassee next day by cars. I probably to St. Augustine & then return by Savannah & Beaufort to Charleston S.C.

Otis spoke to the Colored People here this evening about 5 o'clock. We had a good time to rest all day on the boat today arriving here at about 5 P.M.

Affectionately  
C. H. H.

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10/31/1865

*From:* C. H. H.

*To:* Mother

CHH-188

On board Steamboat  
"Canonicus" - St.  
John's River Fla.

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On board Steamboat "Canonicus"  
St. John's River Fla.  
Tuesday Morning - Oct 31 1865

My dear Mother

I have just started from Jacksonville to go to St. Augustine 30 miles farther down the Coast - to spend one night there and then return to Savannah and thence to Charleston. I arrived back from Tallahassee last night at about 9 o'clock. It is 165 ms. from Jacksonville across to the State Capitol. Otis, Rowland, Mr. Alvord, Maj. Stinson and I arrived at 1 Saturday afternoon. Met various citizens and officers here. Among the latter Chaplain Moore the State Supt. of schools for the Bureau and Otis addressed the 3d U.S. Colored Regt. with all the citizens upon the Common, Otis standing upon a Carpenter's bench. It was Sun-set before he began and he talked more than an hour by moonlight - eliciting considerable applause and undoubtedly communicating much instruction both to the blacks and native whites.

An erroneous impression among the negroes that the lands were to be divided among them has to be met and counteracted all through this country and it is almost or quite a superhuman task to teach them to go quietly & steadily to work for wages! They are very reluctant to engage in any way to their former masters and yet this is the most desirable course for them at present. We got off on the extra R.R. train for Tallahassee at about 8 P.M. Sixty (60) miles to Lake City brought us to the terminus of the first Rail Road and we had an hour or two's delay before we could go on and considerable perplexity as the two Rail Roads do not agree well, and they both are very poor, destitute of hands and more destitute of suitable Rolling stock. We helped turn the engine round upon the Turning Table with our own hands and it is an awkward Turning Table too - like most of the Southern machinery.

However we were half way from Lake City to Tallahassee by day-light. Got some Breakfast at a Negro-Irish shanty at whose arrangements Rowland was much amused. His appetite would not overcome the various surrounding disagreeables as well as that of us old soldiers. Jacksonville is a miserable sort of a town stuck into a Sand bank and a low bank at that. Some of the houses (which by the way are very rare and few in number) upon the banks of the St. John's look pleasant enough. But most of the country through which the R. R. passes is low flat and chiefly pine forest.

We were happily disappointed however to find Tallahassee built upon a hill or hills overlooking the surrounding Country for miles in some directions. It was really refreshing to us to see something varied and approaching the natural beauty and majesty of our own New England homes.

Tallahassee is a Country-like place, of no more business seemingly than Farmington, Me, but it is only 20 ms. by Rail Road from St. Marks on the other coast by which Otis intends to go in Steamboat to Mobile. We saw some officers of 2nd Maine Corps & Corp Warren Wardman has been at Tallahassee - now at Ft Barancas where probably Otis will call to see him, touching there on his way to Mobile.

We found Gens. Foster & Newton at Tallahassee. The latter used to command our 2nd Division in the 4th Army Corps you will remember. Foster commands the Military Dept. i.e. this State. His wife is at St. Augustine whither I am now bound to make a brief investigation of Freedmen's matters and then start again tomorrow morning Northward. This Steamboat is at my disposal. So you see I am quite independent. I only wish I had some of my friends to share some of the privileges of travel. I myself am pretty much absorbed with business. This morning however I breakfasted with a College mate Capt. Frank Webster of Bangor (brother of George W. who was my classmate). Capt W. was married this Summer & has his wife here. She was a teacher in this Department. He tells me George (now Major Webster) was also married this Summer. So you see my friends are outstripping me in the matrimonial race.

I brought letters to mail from Rowland & Otis to their wives. I am glad to have had the privilege of accompanying Otis & Rowland so far on their way. From New Orleans they will return rapidly to

Washington (by land probably).

I sent a letter North from Fernandina for you. We were there one night & Otis addressed the Colored people and visited the Orphan (colored) Asylum. That is only a little hamlet but built upon a beautiful harbor - a Bay opening out of the Ocean and both safe and Commodious. But the R.R. from Fernandina here was taken up (that is the iron) during the war and so there is no business there now.

Jacksonville is 25 miles up the St. John's River, a broad, quiet stream being seemingly a succession of lakes opening into each other. There are plenty of Alligators in this River but I have not seen any yet.

There has been a terrible storm on this & the Gulf Coast & many vessels lost - the same which delayed us at Charleston. 60 wrecked vessels had been found near Key West and we fear some New York Ocean Steamers loaded with teachers and other friends have been lost. We will hope they were only disabled & will yet appear. These storms are terrible indeed. I did not realize how many human lives were thus lost until lately though Paul & other New Testament writers dwell much upon the dangers & trials of sea voyaging.

We will have a very quiet short run of three or four hours to St. Augustine. I will not write more now but may add to this.

C. H. H.

P.S. My love to Rosa when you see her. Will she go to Kents Hill or elsewhere this Winter. I suppose you will not go to Augusta.

C. H. H.

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11/1/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-190

On Canonicus Off  
Florida Coast  
Bound for Savannah

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On Canonicus Off Florida Coast  
Bound for Savannah  
Nov. 1st 1865

Dear Mother

I reached St. Augustine just before Sun-set and found it a very interesting old town. The Streets are very narrow. Formerly no carriages were allowed and the streets were kept hard & smooth by a kind of Cement. The houses are made of a kind petrified compound of Shell & clay which they quarry from Anastasia Island - (lying near - opposite the city & forming the harbor). This hard rock-like compound is called "Cokeena" spelt properly Cocina I believe. This has been always a Station for U.S. troops & their old barracks are there. There is also a large Fort built also of Cocina. The ancient city gates or rather the posts or pillars of the gate are to be seen yet. Lt. Saims (whom I had known a Cadet at West Point) kindly took me to ride in his carriage with two fine horses. It got too late to get a good view of the Convent, Cathedral & other buildings & to examine the tropical fruit trees & shrubbery but I saw them by the brilliant moonlight. I saw some of the people in the evening, calling with a Presbyterian Clergyman missionary from the North whom I had got acquainted with upon the boat. He is to be settled there. His people being chiefly Union & many of them originally from the North.

We went all about the grounds of Mrs. Anderson who is an elderly lady who came down here 20 years ago. Her husband has died since. We plucked the oranges & ate them as we walked about. Lemons were growing upon the trees & she gave me one very large one to take with me. I gathered some fragrant flowers also. Nature has truly dealt munificently with this region. Olive & Citron trees were a novelty for me. I wished to stay longer but as I had got all the information possible about Bureau affairs I did not feel that I ought to delay any longer.

Gen. Saxton needs my services so much in S. C. now. We left at 5 ½ o'clock this morning. There is considerable sea-swell today owing to recent N. E. winds but I am not sea-sick now-a-days & the only objection to the "swell" is that it prevents our making as good time as we would if it were perfectly smooth. I hope to be in Savannah tomorrow noon, however & go the next day to Beaufort & Saturday to Charleston. There are no passengers except me so I have the whole boat to myself. I read somewhat & have written Ella a letter this morning. You have heard perhaps of the terrible storm we had last Monday & Tuesday. Some 60 vessels were wrecked on the Gulf Coast. We started out of Charleston Monday & our rudder chain having parted we put back & did not try it again until Weds.

A kind Heavenly Father deals mercifully by us all. May his blessing continue with you is the daily prayer of Your Loving Son.

C.H. Howard

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11/16/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-191

Darlington S.C.

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Darlington S.C.

Nov. 16 1865

My dear Mother

I am again away upon an inspection tour. I wrote you on my return from Florida. I was in Charleston but a few days when I went by Steamer to Georgetown S.C. and back the next day. I enjoyed that trip pretty well as we had a good boat and Gen. Devens (of old 11th Corps acquaintance) who now commands the Mil. District embracing Charleston & Georgetown was also along and his presence not only made it pleasant socially but facilitated my business.

I visited a Rice plantation with him. It was not however, so much of a novelty to me as to him for I had often been upon them as you remember while with Sherman's Army just before we took Savannah.

I left Charleston yesterday morning - coming a hundred miles by Rail Road to Florence where I took an ambulance to this place ten miles arriving here at 10 P.M.

I knew Gen. Richardson who commands this entire District. (He also is of the old 11th Corps.) And I easily got acquainted with many officers of the 29th Maine. Col. Nye (now Brevet Brig. Gen.) is from Lewiston & is here in the house with Gen. R. His wife & two little girls are also here. She is a pleasant though not highly cultured lady. I think he was some sort of an overseer in the Factories. He is a member of Mr. Balkorn's church. Is an easy, home-made sort of a man.

I go to Cheraw tomorrow (if Providence permits) 30 miles above here. The R.R. train runs every other day. I will return Saturday & expect to spend Sunday here - though I wish I could be in Charleston which is for the present the representative of home to me. In fact it is quite a comfortable home, we have; Maj. Saxton, wife & child & Capt Kethum with me. I do hope we will not be broken up this Winter though if Gen. Saxton is removed by wish of the President (as there has been some indication would be the case) I should probably be disturbed. If Gen. Saxton goes away I shall very probably resign unless I can go upon Otis' staff. But we are doing such a great work down here I feel reluctant to leave it and will not without a plain indication of Providence.

I meant to have sent that mortgage to Mr. Libby & will do so as soon as I return to C. It is all transferred. I wonder whether Rowland has yet returned to Maine.

I am somewhat anxious about you, dear Mother, so separated from your children. It shall not always continue and may the Lord our Heavenly Father protect and comfort you until we can again be reunited. Cannot you write me a little oftener? Why not drop me a few lines if not more than half a dozen once a week.

I got a letter from Dellie a few days ago. He was well except a soar finger which he said was getting well. I am glad he had found a place to settle & I trust he may do well & pray he may be a useful & respected member of society as I expect he will.

I got a letter from Ella a few days since from Bath. Gen. Richardson takes me into his own home & bed, so I am not on extra expense just now but expenses are pretty high in Charleston. How does "Wash" get on. Hope he will write to Albert to be contented a while with Dr. Monroe. Albert would not like the Country nor steady work very well.

With much love Your Son  
C. H. Howard

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5/14/1866

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-192

638 Fremont St.  
Mr. Webbs  
Boston

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638 Fremont St.  
Mr. Webbs  
Boston May 14, 1866

Dear Mother,

You observe I have spent the Sunday in Boston. Had pleasant calls upon two Classmates, young Professors and Dr. Mitchell at Brunswick & upon Mrs. Whittlesey, warm welcome at Capt Patten's. Good trip on the boat. Met Frank Gilman in the morning in walking from the Parker House to report to Mr. Webb after Breakfast. He took me to the Paymaster on my own business and then to the Navy yard on his. And I was glad to visit the latter. The grass is all very green there now and the trees in leaf. In fact the vegetation here is as far advanced as it was at Philadelphia when you and I came through.

I went to Church with Frank in a.m. & dined at Mr. Emery's. They said they enjoyed your call and hoped it would be repeated. Frank asked me for one of your photographs (the Richmond one.). I wonder whether Aunt Martha could not get us some of those. In Eve'g I heard Mr. Webb & enjoyed all the services much. He has a beautiful Church and the singing was excellent. Sat. P.M. I took the little girl with me to hear "Blind Tom" of whom Dr. Chickering told us you remember. Sat. Eve'g attended the rehearsal of a Sacred Concert by the Handel & Hayden Society - magnificent. One of the singers the soprano solo Miss Henston I also heard yesterday morning at the Old South.

I am off for New York this morning but as I failed to get Dexter's pay here must stop over a train and perhaps - yes in all probability a night - to see the Paymaster there. Think I will telegraph to Otis from N.Y. tonight & get two or three days extension.

Hope you will not work too hard as there is danger when you [have] so much to be done.

Tell "Wash" to repair the Stable floor the first opportunity - make it all sound - as I may have my fine mare which was sold to Mr Webb back again if he goes away as there is some prospect. I am going to buy her back. You know she is an elegant animal and I want Wash to put one of the stalls in good shape for her and fix it so the other horse cannot kick her or any harm befall her in any way. If I have her I shall want Wash to come for her & take her back in the Bath boat riding her from Bath home in two days. If this occurs and in fact at any rate as you do not like your horse you better let Rowland B. H. sell him if he gets an opportunity and perhaps Francis Lothrop might send a purchaser if you would let him know you wish to sell the horse.

The mare is kind and with a curb bit would be safe enough for you to drive but she never must be driven in a rickety old wagon. I told Wash about getting ours repaired and I think it better be done at once. The harness too needs some repairs and oiling. If Otis' family comes home this summer the mare would be a great source of comfort and pleasure to them. She will need to have a good deal of grain - though not more than your present horse. Perhaps I can bargain for you to keep her for the using. I am to have her a year - allowing Mr. Webb to repurchase her on his return - so you see I am doubly anxious that she should be kept safe and sound I will write again of this when it is decided which will be the last of the month. Fear Wash could not well be spared to come for her but three days will be all and I can't think of a better way.

Dell would like the arrangement too I suppose as he will be in a state of mind to enjoy riding.

Your loving Son,  
C. H. Howard



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6/26/1866

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-193

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't  
Commissioner, District  
Columbia  
Washington

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[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia  
Washington,

June 26, 1866

Dear Mother

It is scorching hot in W. now. Lizzie is doing well up and dressed and sat last evening with Otis & the children on the upper balcony. The little boy thrifty but still without a name [John Howard, born June 15, 1866].

The rest pretty well - though sometimes the hot weather makes Chancy fretful. Guy & Grace go with their father on a moon light excursion down the Potomac this eve'g. I go ditto Major Ketchum and two young ladies, sisters, Bailey formerly from Portland, Maine.

Rowland writes that Wash troubles you a little sometimes. I am very sorry for this and feel sure Wash does not mean to do so. I want him to be just as respectful and obedient to you as I would be and as he used to be to me. I was in hopes to keep Wash with us always and help him to own a piece of land and a home of his own one of these days.

Hope you do not work too hard. Want you to be fresh and happy when we all come home. I am desirous of bringing to see you a very particular lady friend of mine from the Eastward - if you are well and everything favors. [This is the first reference to his future wife, Katherine Foster]

I inclose a letter of Addison's which we thought would interest you and Uncle Ensign [Otis].

Your loving Son,  
C. H. Howard

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9/10/1866

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-194

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't  
Commissioner, District  
Columbia  
Washington

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[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia  
Washington,

Sept 10, 1866

Dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

I was glad to get your two letters - one so kindly sympathizing on acct of my disappointment.

I did not feel very blue but recovered from it in one day and of course regard it as the index of Providence.

My Regt. goes out Oct. 1st & I go today to S.C. to see the officers & men once again before they separate. Be gone about two weeks I suppose. Am querying whether I ought to stay here in case I am mustered out (which is still doubtful) as a Civilian Ass't Comm'r at \$2500 per year. Otis proposes for me to do this. What do you think?

Miss Kitty wrote me the best of letters on rec't of news of my disappointment- cheerful, Christian. By it she [is] now higher than before in my estimation - which, Ella will think, was not necessary.

Weather cool - Spent Sat. night with Maj. Ketchum at the Bailey's in Montgomery Co. Md. Very cordial reception & agreeable half holiday.

Shall miss my Bangor letters. Perhaps I ought to go to Seminary this Fall but if I can retain my Comm'n will stay here unless there be some marked indication of Providence to the contrary.

We liked the Philad'a Resolutions (Loyal Unionists). Don't you think they will strike the heart of the <loyal million>, about right? A letter would reach me care of Maj. Gen. R.K. Scott, Charleston, S.C. for a week hence.

Hope you will see Mother soon & find how she gets on - whether she is to have John Morrill move the sheepborn &c &c. Otis will not be in Maine before 14th or 15th of October.

Dr. Boynton has returned & proposes to answer Beecher. Sorry that Stephen A Tyng D. D. goes with Beecher.

Had good time at reopening of my Mission School yesterday.

The house [has] been enlarged & improved by Otis. Wish you & Ella may see Kitty soon.

Your Affectionate brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. The facts of that extract were correctly given save the praise. C.H.H.

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9/14/1866

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-195

Charlotte, N.C.

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Charlotte, N.C.  
Sept 14, 1866

My dear Mother

Detained here by the non-connecting of R. R. trains from 4 o'clock this morning until 9 this eve'g. I have whiled away the time until 6 P.M. an hour before the northern mail closes & will now write you a short letter.

Have read somewhat in Ecce Homo (the book Ella was reading at our house) this afternoon. Went to bed this morning, after reading all night from Raleigh, & slept till nearly eight. Walked about the town. They boast that no "federals" visited it till after the surrender. Rather a filthy place - bags in the streets. Some fine houses and grand old oaks though not so many of the latter as in Raleigh. Much greater number of dilapidated and uncanny houses and people. Newspaper pretty Rebel. I just mailed a copy to Rowland. I came to Raleigh via Baltimore & Norfolk boat.

Lt. Col. Beebe gave me a warm welcome & even persuaded me to stay a day longer than I had intended. But I enjoyed it much & really wanted to see more of him as our Reg't is to break up & probably we will no more be associated in this life. He promised me to leave off the use of ardent Spirits to which he has been more or less addicted.

I hope to reach Charleston by 2 P.M. tomorrow - spend about 4 days there & then may go to Augusta & if I do will not be back in W till week after next, otherwise, the last of next week.

I hope to get my mail at Charleston. Kitty wrote me a very cheering letter with noble Christian Spirit - after receipt of the news of my disappointment about the Commission of Major in the Regular Army.

I desire to trouble you mother to go to my book-case and find upon the top shelf (I think) the poems of Schiller in German - a small bound book with no inscription upon the back - and send it to Kitty. I will inclose an envelope addressed, which you can paste upon the outside after packing the book neatly with the ends open so that only newspaper postage may be charged. Please pay the postage & let me know how much.

I hope to hear from you at Charleston - remailed from W.

Love to Jamie & Gracie [Otis' children] & a great deal to yourself. From

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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11/1/1866

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* [Rowland B. Howard]

CHH-197

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[missing first pages]

[1866] [written in a different hand]

Somebody will need to help Mother a little in <tilling> the grass. Hadn't you better ask Uncle Ensign [Otis] to do it as he did last year.

I am very sorry at Orrin's course and think we could hold him to his agreement. To mention a matter of comparatively little account affected thereby - I was expecting to be home in Sept. or Oct. for several weeks and had hoped to have sort of a reunion with your family at Mother's & that probably Kitty would consent to come over from Bangor tho' I had not mentioned it to her. She writes me she has written asking Ella to come to Bangor & to be home during Anniversary.

Tell Ella I think I never spent a happier week than I spent there nor saw a pleasanter home. To make it complete Nina should be at home but Kitty will the more desire Ella to come for Company in Nina's absence. Indeed I do not mean to say I should feel that anything was lacking for a pleasant visit even now. If Ella can make it convenient to go I shall be very glad not only that they might be better acquainted but that Kitty may be the more likely to visit Leeds or Farmington.

I have been over (across the street) to see Otis since I began this. He has been looking much worn. I wish they could all go North for a month. Building blocks not made yet -rather slow but I think they will be ready to begin Otis' house within 2 weeks.

Tell Ella (you're not supposed to be interested) that I never had so good letters as now. They are more than I know how to desire. But I trust I am grateful to the good God that in His Providence he has blessed me with such a love.

Our morning meetings are thinly attended but have all been lively and interesting thus far. The family get up & breakfast with me now.

I have never heard from those pictures. Hadn't you better send to Lewiston P.O. & then to Inglis. I would if I knew the exact orders you gave. The Convention pictures came and you can have the one of Mother's if you wish. Tell Mother I have one here which she can have in case you take that.

Mr. Browne sent Kitty two pairs of gloves he exchanged for size 6 ½ instead of 7 ½ tell Ella. You see I hold the hand in large estimation.

I got your letter in Bangor. Forget whether I answered it

If you see any one who insists upon buying our farm at \$2100 let me know.

Love to Ella and the "chickens" as I think I heard her call them once or twice.

Your affectionate brother,  
C. H. Howard

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11/25/1866

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-196

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't  
Commissioner, District  
Columbia  
Washington

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[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia  
Washington,

Nov 25, 1866

Dear Mother

I will write a few lines at the close of my day's work to tell you we are all well and that I had a safe journey to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Cedar Rapids and back. Spent one day with Dellie and one night (sleeping at O. O. Stanchfields). Dellie is prospering in business & looks well & happy. Rosa has got quite fleshy & seems to enjoy life much. We sold our land for \$1600.00 having paid \$800.00 for it - thus gaining \$800 in about 3 months.

Fred. Strickland is doing a flourishing business in corn, wheat, wool & hogs. I found Uncle Henry & Aunt Martha & Annie well - Lizzie not very well but hoping to get strong so as to visit Washington this winter. Her father thinks it doubtful if she is well enough. No particular disease but general debility. They sometimes think she has "dumb ague".

Aunt is very desirous that you should spend the Winter with her. Says she will be all alone. Said a great deal about it as also did Uncle Henry. They think you might come on with me as you <propose> and go out to Richmond from Philadelphia or from Pittsburgh alone as there is no change of cars from the latter place. We are counting on your being here but if you should wish to visit Aunt Martha too I could go to Pittsburgh with you or go all the way out if desirable. Uncle Henry said more than I ever knew him to about your coming and I promised to tell you their wishes. They say three months at least.

I hope to come on for you the latter part of December. Kitty F. is to be in Boston at that time I believe. I had two letters from her at Chicago & found one here - all of which were as usual very gratifying though perhaps I should not be as willing to show them to my mother as I was those of last Spring. Not that they contain anything I would not wish my mother to know but because young ladies in such a case write for one person only to see.

I find business had accumulated and of course I am tired tonight but am perfectly well. Am now in the same room where you used to find me when I was acting adjutant General, the South Western Corner room - Mr. Marble & Capt. Clark with me.

Otis seems very well. I got no contributions for our Church West but prepared the way for some.

Dellie & I talked over the R.R. business, the farms & all but I will not write about it now. Dellie will write to Rowland about the R.R. business & I will try & put things in better shape when I come on. Do you still think it a good plan to let Wash take the farm at the halves as I talked of doing. If so I will arrange it for the coming year when I come on.

I pray morning & night that our kind and merciful Father in Heaven will bless you with a cheerful, trustful spirit and make you useful in his holy Cause - but feel that my prayers, often, are clogged with want of Faith and other besetting sins. I know you do not forget to pray for your sons and will often remember before the throne.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I got back yesterday in time for my Sunday School. C.H.H.

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4/16/1867

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-198

New York

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New York  
April 16 1867

My dear Mother

Accidentally late for the Washington train I have some time in which to write you. Mr. Alvord was compelled to stay over & had persuaded me but I thought I would return today. However a load of Cotton got upon the tracks and detained our horse cars, so that I was about 2 minutes too late.

It is raining. I just dropped into Mr. Kimball's store - having a note of introduction from his brother in Washington whom you know. A wholesale dealer in potatoes, fruits &c.

Yesterday I got your letter at Mr. Ketchum's office - another note from Rowland & a good letter from Kitty who never fails to write and always cheers me thereby.

I visited the NewsBoys House in Brooklyn over which my friend Wm H. Lawrence is the Superintendent. He was with us in the Georgia Campaign as an Agent of the Christian Com'n.

Last night was the <> Celebration which was a cordial reunion with addresses, a splendid supper, table superb with flowers and ornamental cakes, ice cream &c &c. Then some dancing. Quite a number of middle aged and other old people like myself who did not dance so I had company all the time & as I was the only brass-buttoned specimen there some of the handsome young ladies condescended to talk with me when not dancing. They were soon to make themselves agreeable as you know it is not difficult for that description of young ladies to do to a young old bachelor like me. I made a brief speech (so called). If the Brooklyn papers have a report I will send. You may see the N.Y. Herald which has some acct. of the Celebration.

I saw Dr. Starrs & Ray Palmer yesterday & many others intrusted in the new newspaper. It is quite possible I may become connected with it as a correspondent at least during the coming year.

I will have time to get the presents today. How are Cousin Olive & all. Was very glad & grateful to her for meeting you. It was very kind of her & Lester. Tell Lester I am not going to allow him to grow out of my knowledge. Give him, also, to Cousin Olly & wife whom (the latter) I hope to know better before long.

Write me often. How long will you be at Cambridge?

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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7/4/1867

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-199

Bangor

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Bangor,  
July 4, 1867

Dear Mother

I was very glad to get your letter last night.

So it seems Orrin has accepted the terms of sale & taken the farm. I agreed to pay the tax on personal property, in my talk with him and I would like for you to see the Treasurer soon and ascertain exactly how much that is. There is the tax on the horse, oxen & cows. Perhaps nothing else. It is well, also, to inform the Treas. that Orrin is to pay the remainder.

I got a letter from Rowland and Ella this morning. I start for W. tomorrow as Com.

What I said about paying the taxes out of my own pocket was not from any feeling of repugnance to the trouble to myself. It is the last thing that would occur to my mind. But I thought the sale would be much better for you and that I could thus perhaps do more for your happiness than in any other way.

I rec'd your letter to Kitty last night and she thanked me - saying she was very happy to know of your kind & tender message before she slept.

She is here at home a constant sunbeam. I never have enjoyed her society so much before - never having been so constantly with her & seen her under all circumstances.

It rains now. We have a horse & chaise at the door & are going with a party of their Church ("Central") to a Picnic at Pushaw Lake. It may clear away at noon.

Letter from Maj. Clark from Washington this morning. All well but very hot weather. I shall expect to come on for two or more weeks in Sept. or October next & aid you in settling up all matters.

Very Affectionately  
Your Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Please tell Wash that he will look to Orrin Bates for his pay after July 1st if he remains, except for such chores as you may wish him to do at about 5 or 10 dollars per month if you please. C.H.H.

Write me soon at Wash'n. Please.  
C. H. Howard



10/14/1867

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-200

Bureau Refugees,  
Freedmen and  
Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't  
Commissioner, District  
Columbia  
Washington

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[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands  
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia  
Washington,

Oct 14, 1867  
9 a.m.

Dear Mother

Have you been neglected in letters of late? The reason is I have been hard at work on my report, writing almost every night the past week till 11 or 12 & once till 2 a.m. Not all writing but hunting up the statistics, material, &c. &c.

Otis left this morning for Western N.Y. to be gone a week. Lt. Sladen with him. Mr. Johnson of Baltimore preached for us yesterday & stopped at our house. A letter from Kitty says she was to go to Boston Saturday last & return the latter part of this week. I wanted to meet her in Boston but cannot now go north till Otis gets back - say 24th or 25th. I may not go at all but now intend to go at least to Boston as I have business there & I shall want to come home not to say go to Bangor as Kitty thinks I must.

Wedding probably the first week in December. Shall get some clothing in Boston & think I probably had better get my shirts there & not give you & Ella any extra labor, though I do appreciate the kindness of you both in offering to make my shirts. I ought to answer Ella's good letter. I was very glad to get it.

When this report is done I promise "better fashions".

We had good sermons yesterday. Hope you enjoyed the same kind of privileges. Love to Jamie, to Ella, Dadie, & Otis & to Rowland if with you.

Col. Ketchum is to be groomsman no 1. No 2 not decided on. Nina Bridesmaid & Miss Carrie Stetson.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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12/9/1867

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-201

Parker House  
Boston

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Parker House

Boston Dec 9 1867 [Charles Howard and Katherine Foster were married Dec 7]

Dear Mother

After a very pleasant journey with our sociable company we arrived safely Frid' night. Found we had reserved for us the <best> rooms in the house. Took a warm supper about 9 o'clock & bid good by to Otis & family & Col. Ketchum about 11 P.M. as they were to start at 7½ from the Hotel. Wm Merrick has remained with us & we propose to go by Bristol boat tonight. He and his wife will probably stay with us at 5th Avenue Hotel in N.Y. one or two days & then we will accompany them to their home in Philad'a. Kitty & I took tea at Mr. Emory's with Frank Gilman & his other sister Mrs. Bundy.

Saturd'y night. Had another lady friend & relation of Dr. Bundy there, a fine singer & we enjoyed her music much. We attended the Organ Concert at noon that day & met there Prof. Young (Classmate of mine) of Bowdoin, & wife who was a Bangor girl & acquaintance of Kitty's.

We heard an edifying sermon from Dr. Kirk yesterday morning. Went to dine with "Cousin Carrie Sprague" 29 Worcester St. & it had grown so cold decided not to go out to Church again. Came back here about 9 P.M. & found Mrs. Merrick in the Parlor with two gentleman callers - the Vaughan's from Cambridge.

Rowland came back this morning & has just gone out with Frank Gilman to lunch & will get Kitty some books which she wishes to present to her Sunday School scholars.

We are going to make a call on Miss Stetson, sister of the bridesmaid & that with an errand or two at the Engravers (for cards) &c. will finish our Boston business.

I hope you will write so we can have soon after or at time of reaching Washington, that you got home in safety & are well - as we are.

Kitty sends a great deal of love to you. It is almost needless to say that everything thus far has continued auspicious and altogether agreeable. We have & feel that we have very very great reason to thank a Kind Heavenly Father for His favoring providences. I desire to know how the work of Grace goes on in your neighborhood. I do pray that Roland & Cynthia [Gilmore, his stepbrother and wife] may begin to follow Christ.

Most Affectionately  
C. H. Howard

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4/27/1868

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Rowland [B. Howard]

CHH-202

No. 229 I Street  
Between 18th and 19th  
Streets  
Washington

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[Letterhead]

No. 229 I Street  
Between 18th and 19th Streets  
Washington,

Apr 27 1868

Dear Rowland [B. Howard]

Glad to get your good letter from Bath this morning. W is pleasant today - not too warm.

I am sorry you did not send the Stevens' Conversation. There is talk of Stevens for Sec. of State. I shall mention his speech of today and wanted to say something of his religious character as he has been most bitterly assailed in that direction. I should not put it in any objectionable way - nor give names. Besides fortunately or unfortunately there are not ½ doz persons in Washington who read "The Advance".

Pres. Blanchard narrated in a sermon at the House of Rep Hall a conversation he had with Stevens but I did not take notes & so cannot repeat it with sufficient accuracy. Perhaps you can give me the acct before Sat. next. I shall not use more than two sentences of it. Have not the space for more. But want it accurate and truly indicative of his state of mind & heart.

Wm. M. sent the ticket the next day all right. Frank G has had forwarded three more Vols. of the Dickens works which I had engaged but the Publishers had neglected to send.

Kitty is well & proposes to drive to Kendall Green to see Mrs. <Stickney> of Bangor today. You may have seen that our Church rescinded the objectionable action on the colored question withdrawing all endorsement of Dr. Boynton's sermon. Dr. B. & Otis (most lamentably) got into a personal altercation after the meeting & Otis told Dr. B. very violently that "it seems to him (Otis) sometimes that Satan was in his (Dr B's) heart". The Dr's friends propose to discipline

[missing rest of letter]

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7/18/1868      *From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus H  
Gilmore]

CHH-203

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July 18 '68

Dear Brother [probably Rodelphus H Gilmore]

Your favor with \$50 duly at hand. The amount due on the note as reckoned at our Bank is \$120.61 to August 6. The date is May 6 1867. There was an endorsement of 49.74 (?) Jan 18 1868, and July 17 1868 of \$50. It occurs to me now that you may want to pay before August from what you wrote - if so you may reckon it, interest at 7 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>10</sub>, or send me \$120 & I will return any balance your due. I have not the note in hand at this writing as I keep it in the bank - the only doubt I have is as to the amount of first endorsement and perhaps you have memorandum of that. It was either 49.74 or 47.74 I think.

I gave Mr. Libby, an order for all of mother's stock dividend. I suppose the am't you mentioned is the total. Did not Mr. Libby write? I am sorry to hear of Ralph's continued illness - but you say he is improving. It is intensely hot and dusty here.

All my love to Mother & Rosa. Kitty writes daily & is well.

Affectionately, C. H. Howard

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3/2/1872

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Katherine F  
Howard]

CHH-204

Steamer Pink Varble  
Arkansas River, near  
Auburn

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Steamer Pink Varble  
Arkansas River, near Auburn  
8 P.M. Saturday night  
March 2nd 1872

Dearest:

As we are "laying up" for the night it is probable we will not reach Pine Bluff before noon tomorrow and I shall probably remain there till another boat comes up. I hoped we would get there in the morning so that I could keep the Sabbath in a more Christian way but we "layed up" last night at the mouth of the Shute from White River and we have made slow progress today.

The boat is old and rickety - a stern-wheeler, never fast and now against the current and as the trip is to buy cotton seeds they stop and parlay at every landing -- try to sell a bbl of flour or meal & engage the cotton seed, leaving bags to be filled for their return.

The President of the oil works (Mr. Fenton) is on board and his little son Henry. The latter was very lively last night and was running out & in with his father, who by the way, has lived some time in California & is a frank full-mannered man of business. The little boy complained of head ache this morning & had evidently taken a bad cold. I advised soaking his feet which relieved him somewhat and he went to sleep. I went to him in his stateroom occasionally as his father was very busy. The little fellow was homesick & cried somewhat. He is only seven years old. He is very patient. Tonight he did not seem so well & is very feverish. So I helped bathe his feet & showed his father about bathing his back & shoulders. He took some sage tea & now feels better but he is to take some oil (cotton-seed oil) as they have no Castor oil. This at my suggestion. The father thanked me very cordially - said he knew nothing about such things. I bathed his head a little & had a clean pillow-case. None of the berths are provided with pillow cases.

It is a pretty "hard" place but I am well and I hope my Darlings are well & in a comfortable home. This faith helps me to be peaceful.

After supper I was up on the hurricane deck pacing to & fro for exercise & watching the sunlight and the daylight fade away & listening to the hounds on shore chasing deer when a young man came up & seemed inclined to talk. He told me something about Ft. Smith where I expect to go.

Finally he began to tell me about his family & himself, how he had lost \$3000 his father left him. His mother lives at Rising Sun, Indiana. His father was killed while in command of a U.S. Gunboat. He told me of his fiancee who lives in Cincinnati and I talked with him as well as I could & I pray the Lord may bless the conversation & enable me to say more tomorrow. He has been on three boats that sunk, & on one which was blown up. Had a bar (to sell liquor) on three & lost all he had each time. I told him it was bad business as you would imagine I would say so.

I have been reading in Fronde. I like the book. It is instructive. Last night I read Spinoza - being some account of the man & his philosophy. I am glad to know he was a good man & that his philosophy is in no correct sense atheistic but gotten pantheistic. However it is not a very bad theory that leads to all the principles of Christ for regulation of conduct when it reaches that and it points to God in all things as being an expresion of God. The mistake as Fronde conceives it is in trying to demonstrate logically or mathematically any matters of faith & conscience. I read "Lives of the Saints" this morning & then the Philosophy of Catholicism & then the 1st Lecture on the Times of Erasmus & Luther. Fronde's studies seem to have been in the 16th Century. Most of them were written for Reviews in 1850. I am struck with his originality & vigor of thought as well as research. Yesterday I read his "Representative Men" & "English Worthies" while on the "Mary Houston". I wrote you on her & I suppose the letter will take the cars at Memphis (I hope so) & hurry on faster to tell you I think about you though I cannot hear from you.

It was about 5 before we landed upon the Wharf boat at White River. It snowed and I found it difficult to get up the slippery clay bank with my valise - almost perpendicular. I made an acquaintance on the boat - an honest-looking but rough fellow whom I found to have been a contractor for Telegraph setting &c. but he was going up Arkansas River for Cotton seed for a New Orleans Oil works company. (They make "Imported Olive Oil").

It was a miserable hamlet. Two houses for travelers - one by Mrs. Boyd a colored man told me was the best. It was a tumble-down-filthy house & my companion (& others) turned & left as soon as they saw the inside. My usual jollity (which scarcely ever fails when absolutely needed) came to my relief. I inspected the room appointed me - no ceiling - rough boards & open over head but a lock on the door & a bed upon which they promised me clean sheets (though I inwardly resolved not to undress in such a place). No women appeared & I almost dreaded to see one. You may imagine why.

I locked up my valise & sallied out to see how my comrade fared. I found the "R. E. Lee Hotel" smaller than Mrs. B's & six men were in the one sitting & bar room all, I saw at a glance, drunk and three gambling as I soon saw. The keeper had on Rebel grey Soldier's clothing & looked like a pick-pocket or worse. I confess it was hard for me not to appear like a cot in a strange garret. He was intent on supplying the forfeits of liquor, cigars &c. I met my comrade outside, he having tried a private house in vain & he & another man concluded to go back to Mrs B's with me. They would have to occupy the same room with those drunken men if at the "R.E. Lee". Mrs. B refused to take them but I offered to share my room & so one got a place. A girl came in & summoned us to supper. While feasting on Pork, bread & coffee, we heard that this boat was for Arkansas

[Missing following page]

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5/18/1872

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus H  
Gilmore]

CHH-206

American Missionary  
Association  
Room 18, No. 204  
West Madison Street  
Chicago  
C. H. Howard, Western  
Secretary

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[Letterhead]

American Missionary Association  
Room 18, No. 204 West Madison Street, ]  
C. H. Howard, Western Secretary  
Chicago,

May 18 1872

Dear Bro:

Glad to get word from you & the card. I send the Rock Island Permit. If you don't use it you can return it some time. You could spend night at Peoria which would be pleasanter probably than at Decatur. I think you could have ½ fares for both (you & mother) on the Peoria, Pekin & Jacksonville line at 8.20 & reach Springfield by good connections at 2.45 P.M. I shall try to go that way starting Tuesday or Wednesday according to necessities of business.

By singing here Thursday again the singers cannot have an evening till Saturday at Springfield. Hope you can plan to remain there till Monday. Their concert there will be Monday. I just got a telegram that concert at Peoria must be deferred. So I suppose that will be Tuesday following & we will omit Quincy where we had intended to go. I regret this change as they will spend the night at P. & might as well sing (Friday).

I cannot explain the telegram. I had telegraphed Bishop a few minutes before to advertize, get out tickets &c. at Peoria. Have countermanded that. Bishop telegraphed he had ½ fares for us & so I will give you a letter to the Supt. at Peoria to use if you go that way. We will probably want you to arrange some things for us there as Bishop perhaps cannot stay. He is on his way back to Columbus Miss. He was to get Hotel accommodations &c. Write me which route you decide on.

I wish Kitty could go to join mother. She is blue in being left out so much. Baby irritable [Burt F. Howard, born Sept 4, 1871] - probably teething. Mrs. Winters slow - very. Mr. W. slower. So we have our petty trials of patience amidst many many blessings of which latter your letter reminds me.

C. H. H.

Bureau 3.20 P.M.  
Arr Peoria 5.45 P.M.  
Leave Peoria 8.20 a.m.  
Jacksonville 12.45 P.M.  
Springfield 2.15 P.M.

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4/27/1873

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-205

Glencoe, Illinois

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Glencoe, Sunday,  
April 27 1873

My dear Mother

Nature seemed to smile on our intention of taking baby (Nina Foster Howard, born 2 Feb 1873) out to Church this morning to be Christened. It was mild and bright and the birds were singing quite merrily. Nina [Foster Riggs, the sister of Katherine Howard and the baby's namesake] was very desirous to be present at the ceremony and to have it on Sunday and at Church. So I was positively glad that in the final turn of events I found myself at home on Saturday night instead of at Moline.

I trust no detriment will result to A.M.A. interests. Perhaps the pastor there will have made more of an effort & so left upon himself a deeper impression than would have been done if I had gone. And his permanent interest will soon communicate itself to the Church. Perhaps, too, Barnabas Root will make a more effective & earnest talk than he would had I been there.

At any rate I have had much comfort in our happy service of Christening. It was pleasant to have the two grandparents (Fosters!) present. I wish you too might have been there. We went in before Church began & sat on the front seat. Nina sat with us. I held the baby part of the time. After brief invocation & singing of the very appropriate hymn (no 1052, Songs of the Sanctuary) beginning

See Israel's gentle Shepherd stands  
With all-engaging charms:  
Hark! how he calls the tender lambs,  
And folds them in his arms.

We stood up and after baptism Prof. Bartlett offered a very earnest & appropriate prayer. There were several deep oval platters filled with wild flowers embosomed in moss and in Christmas green. They were mostly Hepaticas of different hues, different shades of violet and some of them nearly white. In two little silver vases were some "blood-root" flowers with their beautiful foliage.

After the prayer we went to the back part of the church & put on the baby's cloak, <blue> veil &c. & let Sophie take her home. Baby - Little "Nina" we must call her now was as good as ever a baby could be. She smiled at her mother while we stood up & even took the cold water in good part not showing a bit of restlessness nor a whimper of a cry. Her praises are on everybody's lips. The promise is unto you & to your children & to all that are afar off. Her namesake Sister Nina will soon go to those who are sadly "afar off" from the Kingdom. I hope this little bud of humanity & womanhood may be like her namesake in character & in consecration to Christian duty as she grows up. I pray that we, her parents, may do all our part & expect God to do His part in maturing such a character. And I know my mother will join us in our prayer. I expect to send your parcels by Dea. Colton whom I have written to to call at my office tomorrow.

With <Sincere> Affection  
Your Son  
C. H. Howard

[Here is the rest of the hymn:  
2 "Permit them to approach," he cries,  
"Nor scorn their humble name:  
For 'twas to bless such souls as these,  
The Lord of angels came."

3 We bring them, Lord, in thankful hands,  
And yield them up to thee:  
Joyful that we ourselves are thine,  
Thine let our offspring be.]



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10/29/1873

*From:* Samuel Harris

*To:* Gen C H Howard

CHH-207

New Haven, Ct

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N. Haven, Oct 29, 1873

Gen C H Howard

My Dear Sir,

I have found my work here isn't <going> with the preaching wh. occupies the greater number of Sundays so fully occupying me that I have no time to write for the papers, & tho's solicited from various publications to write have been unable to furnish a single newspaper article since I came here. I see no prospect of being able to do so at present.

I am glad to hear from you & that you are taking hold of the Advance, which maintains a high position among the religious newspapers. Mrs H joins me in cordial regards to yourself & Mrs Howard.

Sincerely yours  
Samuel Harris

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10/29/1873

*From:* Wm. M. Taylor

*To:* General C. H. Howard

CHH-208

5 West 35th St.  
New York

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5 West 35th St.  
New York Oct 29//73

My Dear General

I received your letter yesterday but I have not yet received a copy of the Advance of last week. Would you let me have one? Or if you can spare it 2 or 3 copies. I haven't hitherto been a reader of the paper except at the Y.M.C.A. but if I am to become a contributor I must become also a reader - so please put my name on your list, and you can keep the first annual subscription off the first payment you make me for articles.

As to remuneration I do not know what the Advance has been in the habit of giving. I will tell you what I have been in the habit of receiving. From the Independent, The Christian Union & The Congregationalist I get \$25 for each article. There is not in any of them except the Congregationalist any specifications as to length, but the Boston people stipulate for about two of their columns in each article. I will try to send you an article on the same terms, if agreeable to you as often as I can. Taking subjects as they suggest themselves.

Unfortunately before you wrote to me, I had sent a sketch of Dr. Candlish to the Christian Union, but your idea of giving sketches of British Preachers strikes me as a good one and a series of such articles might be made both pleasant & profitable.

I hope to see you next week at Newark. My wife will be delighted to have a visit from you & the children will be glad to welcome you again, not now only for your brother's sake but for your own. Believe me.

Yours faithfully,  
Wm. M. Taylor

P.S. The 'star' was a good signature. Usually I have no hesitation in allowing my name to appear but when I indulge in free criticism of contemporary events, I think I can be more trenchant - & faithful - when my name is unknown - & I use the Editorial "we". It is not modesty precisely, & it is not cowardice either, for I would willingly say similar things openly, but I don't care to have the responsibility of personal defence always upon me. So if you Editors get sometimes the benefit of our help under our own names - it is only fair that we should occasionally get the benefit of your anonymity. I think what I said about the colored people, needed to be said & it will be all the more powerful without my name since we born Britishers have none of the prejudice against colour which is so strong here and if I had put my name to it people would have said "He talks that way because he is a Scotchman" where as now they will feel that I do so because I talk as a Christian. W.M.T.

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11/4/1873

*From:* G. Bond

*To:* C. H. Howard

CHH-209

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Tuesday, [Bowdoin: November, 1873]

My dear General

I did not get your letter inviting me to Annapolis till yesterday. I had just come from a journey to Chicago about Freedmans schools and I was wearied out. I hope you had a good meeting and that some of the rebs down there did you the honor to hear you.

I am going down now to see our new Commissioner. Gen'l Horace Brooke who was in <pressed> Gregory's removal.

G. Bond

[Note: Edgar M. Gregory was removed as Ass't Commisioner of Texas area on April 2, 1866. In May, 1868 he was appointed Marshall of Eastern District of Pennsylvania, which ended his Freedman's appointment to the Maryland and Delaware District. He died on Nov 7, 1871.]

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1/19/1874

*From:* John Weir

*To:* Chas H Howard

CHH-299

Yale College, New  
Haven

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Yale College, New Haven  
Jan 19, 1874

Chas. H. Howard,

My dear friend,

Your letter of the 11th has only lain <over> unanswered awaiting the first opportunity and now I have it.

I must thank you for your interest in asking me to contribute to The Advance as I can only say that I will endeavor to do so. As to the terms that I would leave with you, as to what you can afford or the articles may be worth. I have so many demands upon me for this very thing in addition to my lecturing that I find it hard to find time for anything much less for such thoughtful matters as good work demands. But I will try to contribute something as feel complimented by your generous offer.

This much for business.

Now we have both grown older, perhaps in some small way, wiser: but there is still a greenness in my recollections of our walks and rides between the village and the old 'Point', as I find my ruminations frequently bring you to mind. I believe I am just as I was then - as I believe that although our relations have been so abruptly and effectually sundered that the same friendly interest survives without having suffered loss or changes.

I can recall, in detail, our long conversations, how they afford pleasure still. What is more strange in life than these driftings apart which make old friends almost as strangers to one another?

Most truly yours  
Jno F. Weir

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2/2/1874

*From:* C H Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-210

Office of The Advance  
Nos. 151 & 153 Fifth  
Avenue  
C. H. Howard & Co.,  
Publishers  
Chicago

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[Letterhead]

Office of The Advance  
Nos. 151 & 153 Fifth Avenue  
C. H. Howard & Co., Publishers  
Chicago,

Feb 2 1874

Dear Mother

I found all well last Saturday night on arriving home at 10 o'clock. I had been about six weeks & came directly from New York where I was from Sat. morning to Friday morning – almost a week after my return from Boston.

I wrote Aunt Martha from there. In the pressure of other things I forgot to ask Mr. Foster [John Burt Foster, Charles' father-in-law] in Bangor about your interest - but he & Mrs. F. reached here from Philadelphia last Friday the day before I did. And as he says he collected the interest, ninety dollars, I enclose that amount herein by my check - (\$90).

We fear Arthur [Arthur Hiram Day, a cousin of Charles' wife Katherine and an editor of the Advance] will have to take a vacation as he has some tired & achy feeling in his side.

So I shall have to be pretty busy - Mr. Jas. A. Cole will probably purchase 1/5 interest & will continue here as he has been in my absence.

With best love to Dellie & his dear family.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

Little Nina matures and is a general pet. She is very "set" in her will & ways & is terribly grieved if I punish her which I do not care to do if it can possibly be avoided. C. H. H.

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3/30/1874

*From:* Clinton B Fisk

*To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-211

Atlantic & Pacific Rail  
Road Company  
3 Broad St. Drexel  
Building  
New York,

Advance  
Chicago Ill

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[Letterhead]

Atlantic & Pacific Rail Road Company  
3 Broad St. Drexel Building  
Thomas A. Scott, President  
Andrew Peirce, Jr. Vice-President and General Manager  
Clinton B. Fisk Secretary and Treasurer  
New York,

March 30 1874

Gen. C. H. Howard  
"Advance"  
Chicago Ill

Dear Sir

Your favors of the 24th inst are duly received. Mr. A. L. Deane & Sons is our Land Commissioner and has the advertizing in Chicago. I will use my best influence in your behalf, and write him today. I will also say my best kindly words in your behalf to the old mutual.

I congratulate you on the publication of an A.<H.> paper and am delighted with your Sunday School Journal.

Very Truly Yours  
Clinton B. Fisk

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9/10/1874

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-295

Glencoe, Illinois

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[Undated fragment: after November, 1863]

[This is written to Charles' mother, Eliza Gilmore sometime between 1874 and 1881 because of the reference to the Advance. She is staying with her son Rowland, his second wife Helen, and his children. Charles' daughter, Nina, was born in 1873 and the next child was born Sept 30, 1874. Since there was no mention of a baby and the lack of payment of the debt Sept 1, I estimate the date of the letter to be 9/10/1874.]

Page 5

Your generous gift was totally a surprise and I most heartily thank you for being so thoughtful and so kind. We got a good letter from Otis. Did Rowland hear? He writes very cheerfully. I am a good deal puzzled to know about your future plans, tell Rowland. Dr. Patten wants a decision whether I will want him. Mr. Gray of Interior would come Nov 1st. Dr Whiting is on his return from a tour in New England & would now come on the paper & could preach at Winnetka or elsewhere & part get <a living>. I prefer Prof. Bartlett's style of newspaper work and I think he would help me about ½ of what Dr. Patton has done for about \$500 a year. We are still hard pressed for money & will be till nearly Nov I suppose. If I could I would borrow \$300 till that date for my personal conveniences. There is a small chance a man who owes me will pay that much soon – about \$375 <due> Jan 1st he came in a week or two ago to say he would pay about Sept 1st but he has not done so. I need it to [pay] my coal bill \$100 and life insurance & some other family bills.

I also desire to expend about \$40 in bringing my furnace smoke pipe up through dining room & some other improvements which I think will save fuel & make us all more comfortable. But I guess some way will be provided. If however you have \$100, \$200 or even \$300 to loan till Jan 1st I would be glad to have it on a note running to that date.

It is not pressing enough for you to change any plans or in any way put yourself to any care or inconvenience.

Many subscribers have stopped Advance because they imagined we were unjust to Mr. Beecher. I do not think the complaint well founded.

Kitty's side is almost well & her cough ditto & we are truly thankful. Little Nina rode over to Maria and Jacob's new house on my shoulder about one hour ago & Kitty & Burt walked. I believe you saw the site. All would like to send kisses to Grandma with very much love. Kitty said she thought today she would try to write you – but she has so many things to do now as you can appreciate. Mrs. Foster & Mac have nearly given up coming till Oct 1st. It was so much work for Mrs. Foster to get the house ready to leave. She has got very tired.

With love to dear sister Helen & Rowland & all the boys.

Affectionately your son  
C. H. H.

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10/10/1874

*From:* Horace Bushnell

*To:* Rev C H Howard

CHH-212

Hartford

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Hartford Oct 10, 1874

Rev C. H. Howard

My dear Sir

My note as addressed to your business office where I assumed that it would be understood there was no "annoyances" to speak of even there. The simple fact was that I forwarded the money punctually last year in a letter and the letter was lost. By and by came a request for payment which I answered as stating the facts and requesting a look after the letter which might possibly be <purloined> by some bag clerk or messenger. The letter was not found and observing that you were publishing a notice <> liability I took the fault to be plainly enough my own and went to the Rail Office for an order when having to get change for the money and then change again for the percent of duty, with a blank hundred <one to fill> & complicated that no body could find how to fill it without a sitting-down time for study and all to send \$3. to Chicago. My patience gave out a little, and I made up my mind that next year I would be excused.

You perceive that my declining the subscription implies no abuse to any body except to the U.S. I have felt a little putting off in the paper, but not any where near as much as I should have expected the paper is a good one still which I look over with pleasure. Perhaps I ought fairly to add that I hadn't for a secn't reason that I am not expecting now to be <> till another year of the paper is out. This also will be my reason not give any you no hope of any future contribution.

With much respect and wishing you all future success  
Horace Bushnell



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7/9/1876

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Katherine Howard]

CHH-213

Glencoe, Illinois

Bangor, Maine

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[This appears to be written to Mary Katherine (Foster) Howard while she was visiting her parents, John Burt and Catherine Foster, and her brother John McGaw Foster in Bangor, Maine]

Glencoe, July 9, 1876  
Sabbath Afternoon

Dearest:

If you and the children were here I think we would go out in the woods and probably try one of the deep ravines this afternoon. There is a pretty fair breeze today, so that in the western rooms, we find it quite comfortable. It was not oppressive at Church. I sat with George Newhall and his mother. Dea. N. is away from home. Mr. Lockwood & Dr North, Mr Rush and Frank Newhall and Mr. Owen were the men. Mrs. North, Mrs. Lockwood and Laura enquired for you. Mrs Sanford and her adopted daughter, a young lady whom you have seen here I think, are visiting Laura.

Ed. Bartlett read a chapter in Farrar's Life of Christ – very interesting. His father has gone East – to the 40th anniversary of his class at Dartmouth and to preach in Worcester Mass two Sabbaths and visit his brother Joseph. Mrs Lyman does not know where. The rest of the family are here. Ed read well – called upon me for the opening prayer, Mr Lockwood for the close. The Starr family were all there except Mrs S. Jimmy Allen is home. Willm B. inquired about John. Andrew was at Sabbath School but had not been there in my absence.

It was an exceedingly hot day yesterday – 93 in the shade in the city. I took the “blue room” and could not get any stir of air in it at first but a westerly breeze springing as I noticed in taking my bath in the bath-room. I opened the West window in the North Chamber and both doors and so got a breath or two. Mrs Lyman says there has been no hot weather until within a day or two – a great deal of rain.

The mosquitoes were very troublesome out on the piazza and now came into my room as I had all the windows open. The flies I found were annoying here. So I darkened the two halls and assisted L. and the girls in driving them out of this room (parlor) and the dining room. She had not thought of the necessity of having the bars exactly adjusted and says the painters had to have some windows open in the chambers.

I found the two older girls Marnie and Helen at the train seeing off some little friends who had come out from the city. The house looked odd to me but I like it. Andrew says every one likes it better than Mr. Hovey's. I met Laura N., Mrs. Sanford & her Lizzie opposite our gate.

The house seemed blank enough & it almost made me home sick to go all about and see none of the dear little flock and not only catch no glimpse of you but feel all the time that you were far away. While I was coming on in the cars I began to think and to feel as never before how my very soul had become interwoven - I was going to say inter-grown which would be nearer the truth - with yours and how utterly desolate my life would be without you. It is so different a relationship from any other as that of child and parents even, or brothers or brother and sister. It seemed to me fearful to imagine what would be the consequences should either one of us be taken out of the world – and yet just this kind of tearing of branch from the vine is taking place every day and the great Physician I suppose can in some degree heal the breach and even takes occasion thereby to teach great spiritual lessons and to fit the one who <strains> for a better living and for a more triumphant death and entering upon their inheritance beyond.

That very hasty scrawl as I was leaving my office yesterday was I fear unsatisfactory enough. I did not tell you that again I found the best of company by reading – and chiefly the orations of Dr. Storrs in New York – a kind of epic poem – a magnificent utterance – fully up humanly speaking to the Centennial occasion; of Robt C. Winthrop in Boston. (I wished when I had read it that I had planned to hear it as I might have done – it was so interesting and instructive) of Wm M Everts in Philadelphia – this rather philosophic and dry – of Charles Francis Adams of Taunton this somewhat more like Everts than like the others and not altogether satisfactory – of H.W. Beecher of Peekskill – characteristic, readable - full of

thinking almost <nothing> utterances – some of them not reverential – some of them iconoclastic – theoretic and on the whole of questionable utility as instruction for the popular mind though containing much that was good. He advocated and prophesized woman suffrage and that most of the evils of society would thereby be done away.

All these and some other orators were in the New York Tribune of Wednesday last and I had saved it for that all day ride. The first news of Gen. Custer's terrible death reached us when I was at Rowland's but the details and the official report have been coming every day. I see no good to our country – nor to humanity in this whole campaign and this fearful disaster must demonstrate to everyone that the <whole procedure> is thus far much worse than as though the troops had never marched across that Country from four different starting places and in direct violation of our treaty stipulations with the Sioux. But God can overrule even these mistakes and horrible blunders and blood curdling slaughters as He has done thousands of times in the history of the world and I pray to Him more earnestly than ever to direct in our national affairs and to vindicate the Gospel of truth and justice and salvation to man. And I know that His truth and justice and salvation does not leave out of account the Indians. Yesterday I wrote that "Topic" on the Custer massacre. I had not then read the official report but had so studied the map and the various reports and knew so much of the circumstances that I believe nothing written is at variance essentially with the official report.

(Private) As soon as I reached the office I began to plan for further reduction of expenses and found I could leave off the cover this week. This saves about \$20 to \$25. I shall continue to do so until we get more advertising. Please do not mention this to father, mother or John and so see if they notice the fact. I wish to ascertain whether it will be generally observed. We shall give nearly an average of reading matter from the fact that there are so few advertisements.

To come back home the potatoes and corn look well but there was so much rain that some of the beets and other vegetables did not come up. We had new potatoes & peas & lettuce today – all of which I relished with the good bread, canned salmon and for dessert some huckleberries which I brought home last night. These the little girls liked very much with cream. The homemade butter is good. I saw an ice-cart going past last night and got enough to last over Sunday. Mrs. L. had not taken any before. I also brought up two boxes of currants which we have not yet used.

The girl is not willing to stay any longer so Mrs. Lyman proposes to go into town next Tuesday & Andrew & I will be left alone in our glory. Elsie is at Dr. Nutt's as second girl I hear but only for a short time I believe. If desirable I presume I can engage her for your return.

I saw little Nina's old hat in my shoebox & it made me a little homesick and wish to see my little girl. The three little girls here are very good and kind. Helen waited to come home from Sunday school with me but I want to see my own little Nina. Every body enquired about dear little Burt and I am all the time anxious to hear how he is and wishing I could be there to take care of him in the night.

<Nomie> asked about Mac as also did Julie Starr last night. I have not seen any of the boys to speak with them. I have promised the little girls & Mrs. Lyman to go down in the woods with them. So now I will close as it is half past four. I gave your ivy a big drink of water after dinner today. The poor thing seemed very thirsty. Many of the flower seeds we sowed did not come up. The little rose bushes look pretty well.

Give a great deal of love to the little ones with kisses from papa and I do not forget the dear kind Grandpa and Grandma and Uncle Johnny. And you will not forget for a moment your own.

C.H.H.

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7/23/1876

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Katherine Howard]

CHH-214

Glencoe, Illinois

Bangor, Maine

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[This appears to be written to Mary Katherine Howard while she was visiting her parents, John Burt and Catherine Foster, and her brother John McGaw Foster in Bangor Maine]

Glencoe

Sabbath Even'g July 23 1876

Dearest:

It is only nine o'clock. So why may I not have a little chat with you? I have just come home from church. Walked along with Willie Willmonth, Jenny and Emma. I read the account of Elijah's triumph over the false prophets – making some <> comments. Did I tell you that was the subject of Prof Fisk's sermon last Sabbath fore now and that he brought in many of his own observations made in a personal visit to Mt Carmel. There is still a very large spring which never is dry down at the base of the large plateau where the assembly undoubtedly was. This plateau is about 15 minutes <hike> from the very top of the mountain where Elijah went up to pray when he sent out his servant to look towards the Mediterranean Sea – which is visible from there. Mr. Owen's subject was "The fool hath said in his heart there is no God." The particular he presented was the equal danger and folly of idolatry or not choosing and worshiping and serving the true Lord God – the Jehovah God – the God of the Covenants with Israel, and in Jesus the God of Covenants and Redemption for the human race.

My head ached when I got through writing to Mac. It was about 3 P.M. I went over to Mr. Allen's expecting to find Willie Willmonth and go then to Mr Newhall's as I had been invited to lunch with them. Willie had gone to his brother's & so after chatting a little while with James I went to Mr. N's. He with Miss Whiting and Miss Knudson (I got Mr N to write that name for me) were soon ready & we went down to the lake by the <picnic> tree which you will remember & then along the bluff & down to the beach house and then up the next road to the bluff again. (You and I have had picnics or at least one at that point – so I had pleasant thoughts connected with those places). We picked ferns, examined all the mushrooms &c, &c. The ladies were both enthusiasts in all the natural beauties. Mr. N took us all the way along the bluff to Feht's ravine. A <rare> wood road and many beauties <> which I think you will remember enough to imagine our walk. They had kept aching most of the way, so I often wandered off by myself rather unsociably. It got no worse – better if anything. Mr. N brought us back a new way.

Emma and Jenny were too tired to go. Jenny thinks she has whooping cough. Her little niece has it, I think. I have never seen Jenny look in so poor health. I must not forget to say she said aside as she was about to go last night. I must give you her love if I wrote today. She said, also, that she intended to write you while you were away. Make me think to tell you some time what she said about writing to another etc

Andrew got me my cup of tea & bread & butter tonight. Elsie will be missed I assure you. I shall be more likely to accept some of the invitations I have had to dine out. A Harding one of the Lockwoods & the Allens & a special one for tomorrow night at the Allens. I declined one at the Newhall's today. Attending one at the Rusts also and at Mrs Storrs. Am I not pretty well off?

I called on Mrs. Parker Hovey Friday ev'g. She sent her love to you. Is not well. Cannot afford to keep a girl. Gave me a good photograph of her husband which she said she promised you and which I am very glad to have.

I wonder where I ought to begin back to in my diary. Perhaps I have by Portals given you some idea of each day. Thursday night the Painter was here & took some of my time & I was in at Mr. Rust's a few moments. Expected the young ladies here Thurs. & Friday but they did not come. I think I told you of a merry time they had here, five or six of them, on Thursday. Jenny told me last night that they danced. I found her belt & carried it over to Emma's that eve'g.

In the Advance I have, besides usual duties, for ward <> Chamberlain that he will accept my last terms (in which I tried to meet his circumstances as to time of payment security for unpaid past &c.) he could not say absolutely until he should see again a friend who had promised him a loan for the first payment. Tell

father I have not forgotten about the deed to him & will probably send it in a day or two. I would like the full memorandum of <all money I was> to him as he suggested he would send me. Receipts are getting pretty light and I suppose we will have to borrow some in August and September. Advertizing is nowhere in L.E. we don't find it.

My head felt better after tea. My stomach does not seem to be quite right. I have some medicine that Mr. Locke took with advantage for torpid liver &c & I thought it would benefit me. It has iron in it also.

The last plan for Chamberlain (& which he accepts) is to pay down \$3000 Aug. 1st & so secure his interest from that date but not begin work till Nov. 1st next – pay \$500 by stoppage of his pay in 6 months without security and secure the other 4000 by second mortgages part perhaps third mortgage & lien on his interest in the paper. This was really all he could do as he is only worth about \$10,000 as property now stands. He <purchased> half my 3/5 at \$9000. I have word that Beedie would like to combine Xn Union with Advance if he can be Editor-in-Chief. That would not do. I hear in another way that Xn Union Co would like to sell out. If I had the money or could easily form a Company with the capital I would like to purchase.

Pray that the Lord may direct & may <kub> my heart fresh in its love to Him as it is so to you.

Your Charlie

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7/23/1876

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Mac Howard

CHH-215

Glencoe, Illinois

Bangor, Maine

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Glencoe  
July 23 1876

My dear Mac [Otis McGaw Howard]

I mean to write Mama this pleasant Sabbath afternoon but have some things I wish to write you about too. Perhaps Mama read you the Postal I wrote yesterday saying I was coming home on the eleven A.M. train. Well, I did so, reading over some manuscript and preparing it for the printer as I came along. Elsie soon had ready for me a nice lunch. You know I eat alone now. When I ask a Blessing I do not have any little folks to ask it with me nor to fold their hands when I fold mine.

After lunch I went down East of Mr Hovey's to find Andrew and rake hay. I found a good lot of hay but did not find Andrew nor the rakes. So I went over on the sidewalk East of Mr Allen's to look at some grass Mrs Starr owns in that fenced lot next to Mr A's garden and which she has given me permission to cut. While there a young man I had seen in the city, where I bought my paint for newly painting the house, came up from the bluff and walked along with me. He afterwards told me his name was Sherman. He missed the train he was to go back to Chicago on and so I invited him over to take a lunch as he would have to stay all the afternoon.

I found Andrew had been raking on the road in front of Dr. Nutt's. But he soon went down where I had been before with me and we raked all the afternoon. It looked like rain at one time and we hurried to rack up as much hay as we could before it should get wet. The wind changed and blew very hard from the lake and so the temperature changed and became almost chilly but it was much better for us who were at work than the hot weather. The strong wind, too, blew away the clouds and it did not rain.

At about five we had completed the racking of that lot of hay and then came up to get the horse and cart. While Andrew was gone for the horse I lay down here on the sofa and rested a little. Mr. Sherman came in and it seemed he had been trying to find us but could not as we were concealed by the bushes and trees. Don't you think you would have found us? Pretty soon I saw Andrew coming riding horseback and the little colt was following not far behind. I then went out and finished the raking and "bunching up" of the hay in front of Dr. Nutt's while Andrew was harnessing, and mending the cart in some part he found out of order. Mr Sherman came out soon to help me and who do you think came along with Andrew – riding on the cart? It was Howard Nutt. I told him he must help, to pay for that ride. But he did not seem to know what to do. But he stayed by and I guessed he wanted to ride home on the load of hay.

Mr. Sherman "raked often" so we were soon loaded and I told Howard to "jump on" if he wanted to ride; but the load was so high he couldn't do that and finding he was beginning to look pretty <sober> I said: Andrew will help you up. So I reached down as far as I could and took Howard's hands while Andrew "boosted" from below and I drew him up as if he had been a big fish. I then made my fork fast in the hay and told him to hold on to that. I took the reins and we had a nice little ride to our stable. How do you think he paid for his ride? Andrew helped him down and Howard then ran and brought me a cup of water from our well. We had to spend some time in "stowing away" the hay already in the barn before we could get in more. It is now full to the very ridge pole in the South End of the barn above the glass window. It was too late to get any more hay – especially as I had to see about someone to read a sermon and conduct worship today.

After dinner I went to see Dea. Newhall and we decided to ask Mr. Owen to be the minister for today. I looked around to see Mr Newhall's or Georgie's fine vegetable garden. The bed of geraniums South of the house I admired also. It is all in full boom and is a splendid sight to see. Tell Mama the large pink fuschia is out of doors tied up to a tree and is still laden with its rich blossoms. I asked Georgie whether he had seen my little calf, which had got out of the "Jenks lot" while Mr Rust was haying there. He said "yes", and just then she came running along behind Georgie's cows just as though she was at home there.

By the way, if we keep her to be a little cow, by and by, we will have to name her. How would you and Burt and Nina like the name "Molly"? If you like some other name better you must all agree and then send me word. Georgie ran and got a rope for me and as "Molly" is tame she came towards me smelling

my hand. I scratched her head a little and smoothed the hair on her neck and patted her and then put on the rope. I was surprised to see how well she led, but she did not like to walk on the sidewalk; so I went in the cow path and Mr. Newhall came along behind in order to carry back the rope. After we passed in through the bars at the Jenks lot Molly took a notion to run and almost got away before I could get the rope off. She did not like to stay in the pasture alone. But usually Mr. Allen's cow is there for company. Today Molly came up to the fence as I came home from church and smelt of my hand and tried to get it into her mouth.

I found Mr. Owen last night starting with his lantern to help Earnest Lockwood and Mr. Rust fix the church bell-rope. Mr. Owen consented to be the minister for this forenoon. I helped a little about the bell-rope and then taking some hymn books hastened home for Miss Emma had told me that she and Miss Jenny Willworth and others at the Newhall's would come over to our house to have some music during the evening.

They came and it was quite a company, Mr. N and a niece and Miss Whiting (who knows momma and specially sent her love to her) and Frank and Mrs. Laura. So we had very sweet music - songs by Miss J - duets by her singing also with Miss Emma or with Frank - and fine instrumental pieces by each of these two young ladies. The other young lady (who is from Harrisburg, Pa) did not sing or play. Elsie had made some cocoa and as the ladies all complained of the cold and kept their shawls on I pretty soon brought it in. Tell momma we used the pretty colored china cups and had two kinds of cake and that Mrs. Laura asked "Why, how did you happen to think of this? It is almost as nice as if Mrs. Howard were here herself." But I thought it was very very far from that and I guess Laura was only a little surprised and wished to say something pleasant.

The company went away soon after ten and I was soon in bed just studying my Sunday School lesson a little first and asking our Heavenly Father to keep my little children and their dear momma well and safe.

I have made a long letter have I not? I send kisses to all the children and to momma and love to grandma and Johnny and grandpa, if he is there.

Your loving Popa  
CHH

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1/13/1879

*From:* H.R. Hagler

*To:* Charles H Howard

CHH-216

Cincinnati, Ohio

Glencoe, Illinois

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Cincinnati, Ohio  
January 13 1879

My dear Howard

Your very welcome letter of the 9th came in due time. It would be difficult to add much to the kindness and high regard I feel towards Rube but the incident you wrote about the determining of my choice at McAllister adds something to my attachment

I have letters from Washington about his Case, and when I go there will do all I can to aid him. The Secty. Of War told Gen Garfield that an act of Congress would be necessary in the case, which under present laws, I dare say will be necessary. Whatever can be done, however will be done.

I am glad to hear from you, and when in Chicago hope to see you.

Very Truly,  
W. R. Hagler

12/14/1880

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Prof. A. S. Packard

CHH-217

The Advance  
C.H. Howard & Co.,  
Publishers  
155 and 157 Dearborn  
Street  
Chicago, Illinois

Brunswick, Maine

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[Handwritten at top of page, 1859 is CHH's graduation class at Bowdoin] 1859 C.H. Howard

[LETTERHEAD]

The Advance  
C.H. Howard & Co.,  
Publishers  
155 and 157 Dearborn Street

Chicago, Dec 14, 1880

Prof. A.S. Packard  
Brunswick, Maine

My dear Sir and Friend,

Your circular reached me some time ago. In the pressure of an editor's work, I have waited to find some opportunity to answer the questions!!

First: After graduation I taught a High School at Holden near Bangor, one term. One year I spent at West Point, New York, in company with my brother O.O Howard, who was then an instructor at the Military Academy. I suspended my studies that year, partly for considerations of health, and partly for the sake of travel, and general reading &c. I pursued my Greek somewhat, in company with my brother, and had free use of the magnificent library at the Military Academy.

Secondly: I entered the second year – that is to say – in the autumn of 1860, the Theological Seminary at Bangor, where I remained till the following April – when, on the breaking out of the war, I left for Augusta, on a summons from my brother, O.O. Howard, who had gone there to take command of a regiment (Third Me. Vols). I assisted him as private secretary, and went with the regiment to Washington – where we arrived early in June. I finally enlisted in the 3rd Maine – my brother's regiment – and crossed into Virginia on the 4th of July. Was in the first battle of Bull Run, as an Aide upon the Brigade Staff. I remained in the army some six years. Was promoted successively to Second and First Lieutenant, Capt, Major, Lieut. Col., Col., and brevet Brigadier Gen. And finally had command of a brigade in South Carolina. Was in all the principal battles of the Army of the Potomac, until after the battle of Gettysburg. Was severely wounded on the Peninsula, at the battle of Fair Oaks. Was wounded at the battle of Fredericksburg, in the leg. After the battle of Gettysburg, my service was with the western armies. Was in Grant's great battle of Chattanooga – in Sherman's Atlanta campaign; and in the march to, and taking of Savannah. Was brevetted Lieut. Col. After the Chattanooga battle and brevetted Col. After the taking of Atlanta; and promoted to the command of a regiment after the fall of Savannah. I was then put in charge of a camp of instruction for colored troops; and assisted in the organization of several regiments which were to form a part of a division of colored troops, had the war continued. In my command at this time were three colored regiments and a colored battery and w white battery.

The close of the war found me in command of a district in S. Carolina, having to do largely with the management of the freed people, as well as military affairs. Here was my first relationship to the schools for the colored people. I was appointed inspector of schools for S. Carolina, Georgia and Florida. In this capacity I assisted in establishing the first schools for the free people throughout these three States.

In Feb. 1866, I was ordered to Washington, and appointed Assistant Commissioner of the Freedmen's Bureau, for the District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, part of the old State of Virginia, and the entire State of West Virginia. This position I held for two years.



In answer to the 4th question – I was married Dec 5, 1867, to Miss Mary Katherine Foster of Bangor, Me.

I now have a family of six children – all living, five boys and one girl.

Early in 1868 I resigned from the Army, having declined an appointment received from Gen Grant as Capt in the regular army and was appointed Secretary of the American Missionary Association for the West and Southwest, with my headquarters at Chicago.

I have resided in Chicago every since. The work of the A.M.A. related to the support of schools and missionaries among the freedmen – and the my duties involved a superintendence of the work in Miss., Ala., La., Texas, Ark. And Mo.; and the raising of the needed funds for these operations, in the Northwestern States.

I resigned this position in the fall of 1873, and purchased a controlling interest in the Advance (newspaper) and became the principal editor of The Advance, and have held that position until the present time. (See note)

This is perhaps sufficient answer of your fifth question: I have published no books.

Answer of the sixth question: I have held no civil offices.

Permit me to add, I am much gratified that you felt yourself able, and that you have been willing, to undertake the completion of the work begun by Prof. Cleveland. All the friends of the College will agree that no one is so well fitted for the work as yourself.

Very Respectfully,  
/s/ C.H. Howard

Note: During the war I had experience in writing for the newspapers: for the Boston Journal, for the Portland Press and for the Cincinnati Gazette and for other periodicals. While Secretary of the A.M.A. I edited a portion of the "Advance" for some time and published a paper in the interest of the Missionary work. While at Washington in 1867 & 1868 I was the weekly correspondent of the "Advance".  
C.H.H

3/7/1886

*From:* Senator George E.  
Adams

*To:* General C. H. Howard

CHH-218

House of  
Representatives U.S.,  
Washington, D.C.,

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[Letterhead]

House of Representatives U.S.,  
Washington, D.C.,

Mar 7, 1886

My dear General

After I had written to Hurford I got a letter from Martin Culver strongly endorsing Gormby. Believing that you were all anxious to have the matter settled I wrote Mr. Culver to go Monday morning to Postmaster Judd and get him to telegraph to the Deptmt in favor of Gormby or someone else. Then I asked the P.M. Genl. (First Asst) to appoint whomever Judd should recommend and if he did not hear from Mr. Judd by Wednesday AM I asked him for the concurrence of the citizens of Glencoe to appoint Gormby at once.

If <Lavler> is for him he is likely to be appointed. All I can do is this. I will ask Gen Stevenson to hold up the case for a few days. You will get this letter Wednesday morning. Wednesday evening you can see the committee of citizens and suggest to them the propriety of ascertaining where the post office ought to be kept. Let them then write to the Department immediately. If on the whole you would rather have Gormby appointed than have a few days delay you might telegraph me Tuesday morning.

Yours truly

Geo. E. Adams

[George Everett Adams, Congressman from Illinois]

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3/11/1886

*From:* Francis C. Barlow

*To:* Col. C. H. Howard

CHH-219

C.C. Willard, Prop.  
The Ebbitt:  
Washington, D.C.

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[Letterhead]

C.C. Willard, Prop.  
The Ebbitt:  
Washington, D.C.

March 11th 1886

My dear Howard

I have not been unmindful of the request in yr. last letter.

I saw the Prest. [Grover Cleveland] this A.M & he said that Terry was promoted first as being the senior of Howard, he, the Prest. having so determined the question of rank. I believe Howard will now be promoted in Pope's place, as the ranking officer. The Prest. said there was some opposition to Genl. Howard, but strong support. Then I earnestly said what appears in the enclosed letter & at once wrote & sent to him a letter of wh. I enclose a copy.

The Prest twice, remarked on hearing my remarks about yr brother, "I am very glad to hear you say this" so that I am glad to possibly have been of service to Genl. Howard tho. as I wrote you, my preferences were for Miles, & I was perfectly loyal to him.

Ever Sincerely,  
Francis C. Barlow

Col. C. H. Howard  
&c

Please regard what I say of the Prest. as entirely confidential (tho he didn't ask me to so treat it) except as to Genl Howard. Please be careful about this.

I return to New York tonight, & I think yr. bro. will be promoted.

(COPY)

March 11th, 1886

To the President

I beg leave to state in writing what I said to you this morning.

In my opinion, the qualities & experience of Gen. Miles make him the fittest officer of any rank for promotion to the grade of Major Genl.

I say this especially in view of the fact (as I understand it), that the successor of Genl. Pope will be assigned to a command on the Pacific coast, of wh., in matters both of peace & war Genl Miles has a wide knowledge - I think that the feeling of the people of that locality as well as the opinion of the peaceful friends of the Indians (those who desire their protection & advancement & not their extermination), is in favor of Genl Miles.

At the same time, if the Prest. is of opinion that the rule of seniority shld govern in this case, as has been shown in the promotion of Genl. Terry, I beg to say, most emphatically, that I think that the objections by which it is sought to exclude Genl. Howard from the benefit of his seniority are wholly unfounded & ought not to be regarded for a moment.

I have served under him, and I know him to be an officer of distinguished services, & merit, and a patriotic

& honorable man of very high character & perfect integrity. The opposition to him (that kind of opposition which seeks to defame him, instead of expressing a preference for some other man on public grounds, as I do for Genl. Miles), comes, I believe, from unworthy motives, and is the result of his merits, and not of his faults.

Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) Francis C. Barlow

---

12/3/1886

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Prof. Little

CHH-221

The National Co-  
Operative Club  
Room 20  
158 Washington Street  
Chicago Illinois

Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me

---

[Letterhead:]

The National Co-Operative Club  
Room 20  
158 Washington Street

Officers:

H.V. Reed, President  
Cap. J.I. Wilson, Treasurer and Gen. Manager.  
Sarah E. Clinton, Sec'y and Manager Ladies' Department

Board of Directors:

Gen'l C.H. Howard  
H.V. Reed  
Lydia J. Cadwell  
Arthur H. Day  
Jas. W. Wilson

The National Co-Operative Club is organized for the purpose of purchasing Merchandise of all kinds, including Farm Implements, Tools, Machinery, Household Goods, Clothing, Boots and Shoes, etc., at wholesale prices for members exclusively.

Annual Membership Fee \$1. Terms Cash

Chicago, 12-3-1886

[End of Letterhead]

Answer to Circular from Prof. Little, Librarian

1. Charles Henry Howard
2. Leeds, Maine, Aug. 28, 1838
3. Rowland Bailey Howard, Eliza Otis Howard
4. Prepared for College at Kent's Hill, Yarmouth & Topsham, Me
5. Seven years in Army (Took part in sixty eight (68) battles and engagements including Gettysburg, Fredericksburg, Chattanooga & Atlanta), brevetted 3 times: Viz, Lt. Col, Col & Brig Gen. Commanded a district of S.C.V. a force of about 3,000 including artillery and infantry. Had charge of Dist. Of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware West Virginia, and two counties of Virginia, for two years in reconstruction period and in administration of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedman and Abandoned Lands. From 1868 to 1872 was Western Secretary of American Missionary Association having charge of their School and missionary work in Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas, Tennessee and Missouri. From 1872 to 1881, Editor-in-Chief of The Advance, published in Chicago. For three years, under Presidents Garfield and Arthur, was Inspector of Indian Agencies. One year was in Charge of the Western office (Chicago) of the National Tribune [published in Washington D.C.] as Editor and Business Manager. In October 1885 became the controlling owner and managing editor of the Farm, Field and Stockman, published in Chicago. Copy sent herewith.
6. Mary Katharine Foster, Dec 5, 1867
7. Otis McGaw – Oct. 24, 1868  
Burt Foster – Sept 4, 1870  
Nina Foster – Feb 2, 1873  
Arthur Day – Sept. 28, 1874  
Lawrence Riggs – Oct. 26, 1875  
Donald Charles – Sept. 30, 1879.
8. Post Office Address

Residence: Glencoe, Cook Co., Ills  
Business: 156 & 158 Washington St. Chicago.

Respectfully Submitted,  
/s/ C.H. Howard

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12/3/1886

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Geo. T. Little, Esq.

CHH-220

The Farm, Field &  
Stockman,  
156 and 158  
Washington St.  
Chicago, Ill

Librarian, Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Maine.

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[Letterhead]

The Farm, Field & Stockman,  
156 and 158 Washington St.

Chicago

Published Weekly

by the

Howard & Wilson Publishing Co.

Gen. C. H. Howard, Editor

J.W. Wilson, Business Manager

Steno.

12-3-86

Geo. T. Little, Esq.,  
Librarian, Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Maine.

Dear Sir:-

A circular came from you sometime since making inquiry in regard to certain of the Bowdoin Alumni. It was mislaid, otherwise would have received earlier attention. I cannot give any definite information concerning the eleven persons mentioned. I have heard that Thomas Barkley Hood, whom I personally knew died in Mobile, Ala. I heard also that Shapleigh was dead, but cannot give the dates of their deaths.

With reference to the statistics asked relating to myself, I enclose two MS. pages in which I have given them with sufficient detail I presume. I would be pleased to receive President Hyde's inaugural address. I have the history of Bowdoin College. If you see fit to send me the catalogue of the art collections, price \$3.00, for the notice I will make of it in my paper, I will be glad to give it an appreciative notice and perhaps it would secure the sale of enough to more than compensate for my copy. Our journal has a circulation in every state in the union and would be seen by a good many alumni. I am sorry your circular was neglected so long.

Your Truly,

C. H. Howard  
Editor.

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3/18/1887

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Prof. Geo. T. Little

CHH-222

The Farm, Field &  
Stockman,  
156 and 158  
Washington St.  
Chicago, Ill

Librarian, Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Maine.

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[Letterhead]

The Farm, Field & Stockman,  
156 and 158 Washington St.,  
Published Weekly  
by the  
Howard & Wilson Publishing Co.  
Gen. C. H. Howard, Editor,  
J. W. Wilson, Business Manager  
Chicago

Mar 18th 1887

STENO.

Prof. Geo. T. Little,  
Librarian, Bowdoin College Library  
Brunswick, Maine.

My dear sir:-

Thank you for the catalogue and address which came safely. I shall remember the library, but am still in some uncertainty whether I can obtain the bound volumes of the "Advance" as you desire, and as I would like to send. I find we have no volumes of the "Farm, Field and Stockman" for past years that we can spare, but possibly we can send you some in the future.

We will endeavor to do full justice to "Packard's Memorial" when received.

Yours very truly,  
/s/ C. H. Howard  
Editor



12/14/1887

*From:* D. L. Lothrop

*To:* Genl C. H. Howard

---

CHH-223

D LOTHROP  
COMPANY  
Franklin and Hawley  
Streets  
Boston, Mass

---

[Letterhead]

D LOTHROP COMPANY  
Franklin and Hawley Streets  
Publishers  
Boston

Dec 14 1887

Genl C H Howard

My Dear Sir

Your favor of the 12th is recd. I shall be greatly obliged for anything you may kindly do in behalf of Wide Awake. It is a child I have taken great pains with and you know how warmly a parent appreciates the favors their children receive. We recd a letter from Genl O. O. Howard. We have replied to his inquiries and expect to receive contributions to Wide Awake from him.

Very truly yours

D L Lothrop

[Wide Awake was a magazine as well as a collection of short stories and other writings for children, published in 1902.]

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5/14/1888

*From:* Senator Justin S  
Morrill

*To:* Genl. C. H. Howard

CHH-224

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C

Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

May 14, 1888

Dear sir:

Your favor of the 9th inst. was duly received. Our Committee have had the fractional currency matter under consideration and have had the Secretary of the Treasury before us on the subject. He is very much averse to issuing silver certificates as fractional currency, but the Committee expect to report favorably some measure for a further issue of postal currency that may answer equally well.

Very truly yours  
Justin S. Morrill  
[Senator from Vermont]

Genl. C. H. Howard  
Chicago, Ill.

---

6/16/1888

*From:* Senator Justin S.  
Morrill

*To:* Mr. C. H. Howard

CHH-225

Senate Chamber  
Washington, D. C.

Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]  
Senate Chamber  
Washington

June 16, 1888

My dear Sir:

When your request for a ticket arrived here all delegates with whom I was acquainted had left for Chicago and therefore I have been unable to render you any service, as otherwise I should readily have done.

Of course somebody will supply an Editor with a seat.

Truly yours  
Justin S. Morrill

Mr. C. H. Howard  
Chicago, Ill.

[Senator Justin Smith Morrill of Vermont; Congressman from 1855-1867; Senator from 1867-1892; author of the Morrill Land Grant College Act of 1862]

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4/4/1890

*From:* H. M. Flagler

*To:* Gen'l C. H. Howard

CHH-226

Jacksonville, St.  
Augustine & Halifax  
River Railway Co.  
President's Office  
St. Augustine, Fla.

---

Oakside,  
San Mateo, Fla.

[Letterhead]

Jacksonville, St. Augustine & Halifax River Railway Co.  
President's Office  
26 Broadway, New York [New York was crossed out]

St. Augustine, Fla., Apl. 4 '90.

Dear General Howard,

I have your favor of the 2nd inst. with reference to a railroad station near San Mateo, which I have forwarded to our Gen'l Mgr., Mr. D. F. Jack, requesting him to take the matter up with Sup't Crawford at once.

Very truly yours,  
H. M. Flagler [Henry Morrison Flagler]  
Pres't

Gen'l C. H. Howard  
Oakside,  
San Mateo, Fla.

---

3/20/1891

*From:* H. M. Flagler

*To:* General C. H. Howard

CHH-227

Jacksonville, St.  
Augustine & Halifax  
River Railway Co.  
President's Office  
26 Broadway  
New York, N.Y.

---

Chicago, Ill.

[Letterhead]

Jacksonville, St. Augustine & Halifax River Railway Co.  
President's Office  
26 Broadway  
New York

Mch. 20 '91

General C. H. Howard  
Chicago, Ill.

My Dear Sir:-

Your favor of the 11th inst. reached me yesterday. I have consulted Sup't Crawford and Mr. Jarvis in regard to the matter about which you write, and find the situation as follows:

[Sketch, not included]

Above is a rough drawing of the relative properties, a design for a road was made by the road markers from San Mateo to the Five Mile Post, which as you will, see, would bring the station in the swamp. Mrs. Thigpen objected to going through the swamp to reach the station, and has fenced in that part of her property through which the proposed road was to run, and refuses to remove the fence unless damages are paid. After a number of meetings by the citizens, the following compromise has been suggested, to wit:- that the station be located either midway between the Five Mile Post and where Mrs. Thigpen wanted it, or on the line of intersection of the old line of R.R. with the present line. Mrs. Thigpen is willing that this should be done, and says that the station may be located midway or nearer the Five Mile Post if necessary. The point of intersection is about 300 ft. from the Five Mile Post.

It is my desire to harmonize as far as possible, any and all conflicting interests. A station located at the Five Mile Post would involve considerably more expense to the R. R. Co. in filling up the low ground for depot purposes, and would also cost the County more to build the proposed road through the swamp. The point where the old and new line intersects is fairly high ground. It is my desire to meet this matter in a way most satisfactory to the largest number of persons interested. A number of the signers of the petition to have the station located at the Five Mile Post are willing to agree to the compromise; a meeting of the citizens will be held on the first Tuesday in April to decide the question.

A new view of the case now presents itself. A few days since, I met by appointment, three gentlemen from San Mateo, who would like very much that we should change the line of our railroad to take in San Mateo. Our interview was entirely informal, and neither side had precise data, but from the best information I could get, it is my opinion that a change, such as they desire, would involve an expense of building seven to nine miles of new railroad, which is not justified by the financial ability of the R.R. Co. I suggested to them that possibly a spur might be put in, running down to some central point on the table land at San Mateo, with a "Y" at either end, so that we might run our trains into and out of San Mateo by building, say two miles of railroad track. These gentlemen went home to talk up the question, and I have not heard from them since. This is an entirely new view of the matter, and one much more radical and progressive than anything hitherto discussed with you.

Truly yours,  
/s/ H. M. Flagler  
Pres't.



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1/13/1892

*From:* A. W. Tourgee

*To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-228

Mayville, N.Y.

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Dictated

Mayville, N.Y.  
Jan. 13th 1892.

Gen. C. H. Howard:

My dear General:

I have received 2 copies of the first volume of the Progressive Reading Circle Series, and am delighted with it mechanically. It is in excellent taste, and the proof-reading is generally good. I doubt if you will improve any on this volume.

As I told you, I cannot agree with the author in all things – in fact he can't agree with himself always – but it is a breezy, suggestive book that will set people to thinking, and prepare the way for a better comprehension of political and economic relations among the people.

If I think of any one to whom it would be well to send a copy, I will suggest the names to you.

You were quite right in your guess that I have been ill. I was bowled over in Denver by a combination of malignant forces, shipped back home, (fortunately not in the baggage-car); just stopped in Chicago from train to train and have not been out of the house since until today, I insisted on going to the barn despite the protests of a weeping household. I am getting out of the woods now and beginning to work again with some pleasure.

The daughter went on to California – a little lonesome, no doubt but is having a good time. I think Mrs T. was almost glad I was ill as it brought me home where she was homesick enough. The rest of the family are well, and it is quite possible that we may try it again after a month or so. I trust you are all well and that the book and the Progressive Readings will boom even beyond your expectations. By the way, permit me to congratulate you on the libel suit. It ought to be of positive value to you. I am almost sorry I am not living in Chicago so as to take part in it. I don't know what you said about the man, but it would take a good deal to be libelous.

Remember us to Mrs Howard, and believe me,

Yours very truly,

A.W. Tourgee

[Albion Winegar Tourgee, civil rights activist, lawyer, judge, novelist and diplomat.]

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7/11/1892

*From:* Senator M. Cullom

*To:* Charles H. Howard, Esq.

CHH-229

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Editor, "Farm, Field &  
Stockman,"  
Chicago, Ills.

---

[Letterhead]  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

July 11, 1892

Charles H. Howard, Esq.  
Editor, "Farm, Field & Stockman,"  
Chicago, Ills.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 7th instant has been received and noted. The Senate adjourned Saturday evening with the World's Fair provision of the sundry civil bill under consideration, involving the appropriation, the Sunday closing, and everything else pertaining thereto. It is a very serious question as to what is best to be done. I think the probabilities are the Senate will favor a Sunday-closing clause. I have felt that way myself, and shall probably vote that way, but the more the subject is considered the more doubtful I am whether the matter for the time being ought not to be left to the discretion of the World's Fair Commission, to be acted upon in October when the Board shall meet. The Board consists of two members from each State and Territory in the Union, numbering about 100 or 106, and they are, so far as my knowledge goes, all sober, upright people, and I should say most of them are Christian people, and in view of the fact that such a body of men have the power of approval or disapproval of the action of the local Board, it is a question whether or not the subject ought not to be left to them for disposition at that time, subject to legislation on the general question next winter in case they do not do what will be approved by the general sense of right among the people after they shall have taken action. It is a pretty serious responsibility for me to do what seems to be protested against by a majority of the people of Cook County on that subject. Only this morning I have received a petition signed by probably 1,500 or 2,000 citizens of Chicago, many of them judges of courts, and four or five hundred lawyers, and many others whose names I recognize as those of worthy citizens. In view of this situation I confess I would rather leave the matter, if it should be regarded as fair and right, to the final action of the Board, and if they do not do right in the premises, legislate upon it afterwards. However, as the Senate will act before you receive this letter, it is not worth while for me to discuss the subject at length. I believe in the churches and I believe in the Christian Sabbath, and yet I feel sometimes that there are two sides to the proposition - whether that Exposition shall be absolutely closed by law, or whether the Commission shall not have some discretion to open it in part, closing down the machinery, opening the Art Gallery, and providing for church service, sacred music, etc., in the pavilion every Sunday. I have a pretty strong feeling that such a course would probably be of benefit to the people and to the country rather than an injury.

I write this letter frankly and freely, but not for publication.

Truly yours,  
/s/ M. Cullom  
[Shelby Moore Cullom. Senator from Illinois 1883-1913]



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2/18/1893

*From:* Benjamin F.  
Trueblood

*To:* Mr C. H. Howard

CHH-230

The American Peace  
Society  
3 Somerset Street  
Boston, Mass

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[Letterhead]

The American Peace Society  
3 Somerset Street, Boston.

Organized 1828. Incorporated 1848.

Robert Treat Paine      President

Robert C. Winthrop      Vice-President

John G. Whittier

Phillips Brooks

Benjamin F. Trueblood      Secy and Editor

Thomas H. Russell      Treasurer

D. C. Heath      Auditor

Advocate of Peace, Monthly Publication, \$1.00 a year  
No. 3 Somerset Street.

Boston, Mass. U.S.A. Feb 18, 1893.

Dear Mr [C. H.] Howard:

Your last letters have been received. We have decided to have a complete set of the Advocate from the beginning bound, or rather rebound specially for the Chicago Peace Exhibit. We shall have four years bound together, thus making about fifteen or sixteen volumes. It will be a handsome half morocco binding.

I have written to Mr. Bonney that my idea about the program is this:

1. That the list of subjects for discussion, with the order in which they are to come, should be decided on at once and printed, that they may be before the minds of those interested in the subject. As an illustration of my idea, I have sent Judge Bonney a draft of a program of topics. I favor the selection of a few important topics which can be well discussed rather than a large number which can only be imperfectly treated.

2. That correspondence should be immediately begun with able men and women whom we wish to present papers or prepare addresses on these subjects. It will necessarily take two months or more to complete this part of the program as it should be done.

3. Let the program, both as to subjects and as to speakers, stand open to revision until about the first of June, by which time it ought to be completed, or nearly so. I think in this way that a much more satisfactory program can be gotten up and better preparation made for the Congress than if an attempt should be made to draw a completed one up hastily and publish the list of speakers and topics right away

I have written to Mr Love, Chairman of the Com on Peace Exhibit, that he ought to make you his deputy in Chicago to have general charge of the arrangement for the Exhibit, purchase of furniture needed, etc. I hope you can do it, if he asks you to do so, for I am sure you will better manage it than any one else with whom I am acquainted in Chicago.

Yours Very Sincerely,  
Benjamin F. Trueblood

---

2/24/1893

*From:* Edna Dean Proctor

*To:* Mr. C. H. Howard

CHH-231

Framingham, Maine

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Framingham [Mass.]  
Feb. 24, 1893.

Dear Mr. [C. H.] Howard

In response to your Tuesday's letter I send, myself, today, a copy of "The Song of the Ancient People" to you and Mrs. Howard, addressed to you at "Farm, Field and Stockman". When you write something about it please have several copies of the paper sent me. And I hope you will not be too strenuous about the immediate civilization of the Pueblos. They are unavoidably civilizing. But I do not believe in forcing them. I am much gratified by the high appreciation the "Song" is receiving.

But we beg you to say all you can for the Corn as our national emblem. There is a great movement about it which will culminate this summer at Chicago.

With regards to Mrs. Howard and wishing you a pleasant stay in Florida, I am cordially yours.  
Edna Dean Proctor

THE INDIAN'S APPEAL. (Written expressly for the Indian Advocate)

You have taken our rivers and fountains  
And the plains where we loved to roam,---  
Banish us not to the mountains  
And the lonely wastes for home!  
No! Let us dwell among you;  
Cheer us with hope again;  
For the life of our fathers has vanished,  
And we long by your side to be men.

Our clans that were strongest and bravest  
Are broken and powerless through you;  
Let us join the great tribe of the white men,  
As brothers to dare and to do!  
We will fight to the death in your armies;  
As scouts we will distance the deer;  
Trust us, and witness how loyal  
Are the ranks that are strangers to fear!

And the still ways of peace we would follow —  
Sow the seed and the sheaves gather in,  
Share your labor, your learning, your worship,  
A life larger, better, to win.  
Then, foemen no longer, nor aliens,  
But brothers indeed we will be,  
And the sun find no citizens truer  
As he rolls to the uttermost sea.

You have taken our rivers and fountains  
And the plains where we loved to roam,---  
Banish us not to the mountains  
And the lonely wastes for home!  
No! Let us dwell among you;  
Cheer us with hope again;  
For the life of our fathers has vanished,  
And we long by your side to be men.

— Edna Dean Proctor.

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5/25/1893

*From:* Ferd J. Dreer

*To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-232

1520 Spruce St.  
Philadelphia, Penn

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1520 Spruce St.  
Philadelphia May 25, 1893

Gen. C. H. Howard,

My Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of the highly interesting clipping descriptive of the memorable meeting of celebrated Generals at Gettysburg, which you so kindly sent me, also the beautifully illustrated copy of your "Journal" and thank you for your kindness in remembering me in such an agreeable manner.

I was very glad to meet you at the "Grant dinner" as it affords me much pleasure to make the acquaintance of the brother of Gen. O. O. Howard, who is an old and dear friend of our family.

With kindest regards,  
I remain  
Very respectfully yours  
Ferd J Dreer

Enclosed please find One Dollar for subscription to your most valuable Journal for one year, to be sent to  
Edwin Greble Dreer  
Frazer  
Chester County  
Penna.

---

8/5/1893

*From:* W. I. Buchanan

*To:* Gen'l C. H. Howard

CHH-233

World's Columbian  
Exposition  
Office of the Director-  
General  
Department of Live  
Stock  
Chicago, Ill. U.S.A.

c/o Farm, Field & Fireside,  
Times Bldg., Chicago.

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[Letterhead]

World's Columbian Exposition  
Office of the Director-General  
Department of Live Stock  
W. I. Buchanan, Chief  
Dep't of Agriculture in Charge  
Chicago, Ill. U.S.A.

Aug. 5th 1893

21,129.

Subject: Passes

Gen'l C. H. Howard,  
c/o Farm, Field & Fireside,  
Times Bldg., Chicago.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your letter of the 3rd inst., addressed to Mr. Chas. F. Mills and referred by him to me, I have to say that it will give me great pleasure to provide, through this Department, for such complimentary admission to the grounds that will be needed for your paper for reporting the Live Stock exhibit.

You have and can be of great assistance to this Department, and I feel justified in saying to you that I will take pleasure in putting you on my own pass list, if you will be good enough to send me the name you want a pass issued for, and will see that it is done at once.

Very respectfully yours,

/s/ W I Buchanan

Chief, Department of Agriculture.

(In charge, Dept. of Live Stock)

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8/22/1893

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Charles [Howard]

CHH-234

Headquarters  
Department of the East  
Governor's Island, New  
York

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[Letterhead]

Headquarters Department of the East  
Governor's Island, New York

Aug 22 1893

Dear Charles:

I send you the letter of Mr Appletons. Please read & see what can be done in Chicago. The time is passing. My book wont sell to people now I think & even after they return from the Columbian Fair. "Genl Taylor" gets high commendation.

Perhaps your firm could put in a Chapter at a time & then put it into book form & do well by it. Send me back the letter. If you wish to retain keep a copy.

All well. Bessie left for Adelheid's last night by the B. & O. Midnight train. Love to Kitty, Mac, Nina & the rest.

Aff. Yr. Brother  
O. O. Howard

---

8/24/1893

*From:* W. Evans Darby

*To:* Genl Howard

CHH-235

Peace Society  
Office 47 New Broad  
Street  
London, England

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[Letterhead]  
Peace Society  
Office 47 New Broad Street  
London

Aug 24th 1893

My dear Brother,

I am sorry that the negligence of the hotel people at the Palmer House created a little preoccupation and diversion of thought and a little haste and excitement which somewhat spoiled the last moments before we left. We managed to catch the train but were compelled to leave our baggage behind, which was forwarded by the next train and has reached here safely.

I have managed to find time to recall as far as I could, the passage you desire. If not exactly what I said in the congress it is very near it and is really what I meant to say. Should you have received from the Reporter as promised a transcript of the actual words, you will be able to put them together. I would that I had spoken more worthily. I could not more sincerely.

And now dear Genl Howard, allow me to thank you very warmly for your kindness in giving me such a restful and pleasant Sabbath. I am very glad to have formed your acquaintance and to have visited your home and hope that we shall not suffer our acquaintance to die.

With best regards to yourself and all I remain

Yours very sincerely  
W. Evans Darby

I go on today to Boston, thence to N York whence I sail on Wednesday.

Genl. Howard

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8/28/1893

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* C. H. Howard

CHH-236

Headquarters  
Department of the East  
Governor's Island, New  
York

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[Letterhead]

Headquarters Department of the East  
Governor's Island, New York

Aug. 28. 1893.

Dear Brother,

Letter at hand. Yes. I had Harvey, a capital critic go over the Ms. and I followed all his notes & corrected or modified. Then Lizzie who thinks much of Guy's judgement took it to him. He read with much care & pronounced the book well sustained & wanted it made a little longer, touching the expulsion of Jews & the beginnings of the Inquisition. I took it to Col Appleton, who published my "Zachary Taylor" and he said at once before looking at it "These are hard times, General!" The firms wants really to undertake nothing. I sent you their letter. Before my work was done about May 30th I saw Mr Houghton and tho he expressed a desire to see the work, he said he guessed others had gone in before me.

If we had time - I would let him read it & say as Appletons have, but there is not time to waste. It is about 250 pages (same size book as "Gen. Taylor").. Appletons said they could put it out in less than a month. If McClurg could get it out by October 10th there would be a fair fall sale. I think I will improve the type of two or three chapters (all are in type) and send the Ms. to you by the hands of my aide-de-camp Lieut. McDonald who can assist you by skirmishing around among his friends. He is a Chicago man. Meanwhile you & Kitty go over the Ms. and put in all the good things you can. I will adopt them.

I believe I am so fair to Romanists that they will be glad of this book; and yet truthful so that no <> principle is excused or upheld. Should Protestants criticize no matter - should Catholics condemn, no matter, it would get notice abroad. I propose to dedicate this book to you - on account of its military features. For in your praises you & Isabella were warriors; I wrote you from Caldwell Ohio, about the "Inte Ocean" & "The News" as Raum suggested. I much prefer my chances on the book. Should Appleton or Scribners publish they would allow me 15 percent on the net proceeds. I may send the Ms by express; but think not it wiser go by the hands of my excellent aide des camp McDonald.

Your aff. Brother,  
O. O. Howard

Gen. C. H. Howard  
Farm Field & Fireside  
Times Building  
Chicago, Ill.

[Note: "Isabella of Castile" was published by Funk & Wagnalls in 1904.]

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8/29/1893

*From:* Oliver Otis Howard

*To:* C. H. Howard

CHH-237

Governor's Island  
New York City

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This Monograph upon Isabella of Castile is hereby dedicated to my excellent brother General Charles Henry Howard, who eight years younger than myself in 1861 enlisted in the first regiment which I commanded, the 3d Me. and was promoted thro every grade to a full Colonelcy in the Volunteer Service & brevetted for gallant & meritorious conduct a Brigadier General. He has been a devoted patriot, a worthy citizen, an able Editor, a Christian, and a devoted brother. Let this dedication be my tribute to his exalted worth.

Oliver Otis Howard

Governor's Island N. Y. City  
August 29th 1893

[The above must have been a draft dediction. The actual dedication is the following.

#### DEDICATION

To my beloved brother, General Charles H. Howard, who, setting out with the enthusiasm of a boy soldier, served his country by my side through four years; was seriously wounded at Fair Oaks, and aided me by his counsel and support during the strain of reconstruction. As a tribute of my affection and appreciation, this book is affectionately dedicated.

Oliver Otis Howard ]



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8/30/1893

*From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* Gen'l C. H. Howard

CHH-238

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S  
ISLAND, NEW YORK

c/o Howard & Wilson Pub.  
Co.  
Times Building  
Chicago, Ill.

---

[Letterhead]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

August 30, 1893

Dear Brother.

I see that all the steamers left this morning at 8.00 your letter coming at 10 was too late for me to meet Rev W. Evans Darby, LL.D.

I am sorry because this is the second attempt to put him and me en raport. I will read the address and transmit it to Helen as you request.

Enclosed is Mr. Darby's letter to you.

I will be back from Niagara in time to meet the boys and their Aunt Lizzie will be here all the time.

Yes, the price per column would be small for I suppose more than one book page would be put in a column of the Inter Ocean.

It would probably be better if they really did want "Isabella" to make a specific agreement.

Gen'l. Raum said the "News" especially had hard work to get such matter as it wanted to keep its columns up to the mark during the Great Fair. They know best.

I much prefer a book, out and out, such as McClurgs, even at the risk of losing on the price.

I have taken pains (such as my leisure has permitted) and been put to large expense on "Isabella's" account.

With love to all.

Affectionately Your brother  
O. O. Howard

Gen'l C. H. Howard  
c/o Howard & Wilson Pub. Co.  
Times Building  
Chicago, Ill.

---

6/10/1894

*From:* George M. Farnham

*To:* Genl C H Howard

CHH-239

MILITARY ORDER OF  
THE LOYAL LEGION  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
COMMANDERY OF  
THE STATE OF  
ILLINOIS  
CHICAGO

3 Times Bldg  
Chicago, Ill

---

[Form Letter]

MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE  
UNITED STATES  
COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS  
CHICAGO

June 10th 1894  
Genl C H Howard  
3 Times Bldg

Dear Sir:

The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States has, for a number of years, been engaged in making a collection of portraits of the prominent officers who served during the late war. The list embraces nearly 2000 names, and of this number we have now less than 50 to obtain to complete the collection.

This Commandery is in want of a war-time photograph in uniform of Lt Col J S Fullerton AAG USV. If you have such a picture will you kindly LOAN it to us to copy? It will be safely cared for, and after copying, returned to you. Or can you give any information that will help to find a picture?

Our object is to preserve the portraits of those who took a prominent part in the suppression of the Rebellion. PLEASE REPLY.

Yours truly,  
George M. Farnham  
For the Commandery.

6200 Sheridan Avenue,  
Chicago, ILL.

---

7/19/1894

*From:* Henry T. Hunber

*To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-240

EXECUTIVE MANSION  
WASHINGTON

Chicago, Ills

---

[Letterhead]  
EXECUTIVE MANSION  
WASHINGTON

July 19th, 1894.

Gen. C. H. Howard,  
Chicago, Ills.

My dear Sir:-

The President [Grover Cleveland] directs me to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 17th instant, and to say that it has been referred to the War Department for consideration.

Very truly yours,  
/s/ Henry T. Hunber  
Private Secretary.

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8/10/1894

*From:* Oliver O. Howard

*To:* Captain Rodney R.  
Crowley

CHH-241

HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S  
ISLAND, NEW YORK

President 64th N.Y. Regt.  
Association  
Albany, N. Y.

---

[In OOH handwriting]

Copy for Gen. C. H. Howard, Official Oliver O. Howard, Brig Gen. U.S. Army

[Typewritten]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE EAST  
GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, NEW YORK

August 10th 1894

Captain Rodney R. Crowley  
President 64th N.Y. Regt. Association  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Captain:-

I thank you for your kind remembrance and invitation. I am glad to write you a few lines to be read at your next Annual Re-union at Randolph, N. Y.

The 64th Regiment has always dwelt in my mind since its station near my headquarters in old "Camp California", during the winter of 1861-62. Of course the closing scenes at the Battle of Fair Oaks, the second day of battle (June 1st 1862) were more impressed upon my memory than any other.

Our brigade, in its first battle, not only behaved like true soldiers, but by their forward movement and steadiness in holding the ground gained, won a success worthy of record.

When we came upon the field, by some want of connection between us and the forces to our left, a gap existed. That gap was widened by the fearful onslaught upon the 81st Pennsylvania (of our brigade) when Colonel Miller was killed and part of his regiment crippled for a time. The 5th New Hampshire had been on picket and not yet returned, when our demi-brigade, (the 61st & 64th N.Y.) came up to fill the whole gap. They did it effectively. Breaking through the enemy's outer line, they brushed back his forces beyond all our lines, and recovered considerable ground from which our comrades had been driven the day before.

Then, as I understood it, the Confederates were more demoralized and the taking of Richmond more practicable than at any other period before the final surrender.

Your regiment, in its first engagement, was in the very forefront of this achievement.

A few weeks since, I visited the ground at the Fair Oaks Railroad Crossing; saw where the regiment first came under fire; where my brother, General C. H. Howard, then a Lieutenant & Aide-de-Camp, rode out and repeated my order to advance; where the 64th, as one man, sprang up and marched after him through the trees.

I saw where I received my first wound; where my brother came to me after his "zebra horse" was killed, and tied a pocket handkerchief around my wrist. Later I guessed where my gray had his leg broken, and where I received the second ball through the elbow. Then as nearly as I was able, I located the spot of our utmost advance, where your regiment was formed in line of battle, and together with the 61st steadily held the ground, firing upon the Confederates ranged behind Casey's tents - tents which had been abandoned in the fearful struggle of the preceding day. I remember the face of Col. Parker and how he looked at that time. At the moment to which I now refer, he was some distance from me. All my staff had been sent to other parts of the field, except my brother who, just at this moment, was severely wounded

in the thigh by a minnie ball, After my second and more painful wound, and after my horse had become disabled, Lt. Wm. McIntyre, 61st N. Y. Vols., helped me to dismount. I was faint and, Barlow being nearer to me than Parker, I turned over the immediate command to him, and began my journey to the rear.

This was my parting from the brave men of the 64th. You will remember that the regiment served with me once or twice after that eventful day, but only upon occasion.

It has always been a special pleasure to my brother and myself to meet members of the 64th, and we have encountered them in all parts of the country. Doubtless every soldier has his own story to tell of the field of Fair Oaks and other battles.

Give greeting to all and assurance that comradeship will never be intermitted. Many have passed to the "better land". We must be sure to meet one another there!

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ Oliver O. Howard  
Major General, U. S. Army

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11/7/1894

*From:* Wm. M. Springer

*To:* Mr. C. H. Howard

CHH-242

Springfield, Illinois

Publisher, Farm, Field and  
Fireside,  
Chicago, Illinois.

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Springfield, Illinois; November 7, 1894.

Mr. C. H. Howard  
Publisher, Farm, Field and Fireside,  
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Sir:-

Your letter of September 11th was duly received. I have been invited to address the Civic Federation of Chicago on the 13th of this month in reference to Arbitration. It is my intention to be present unless Mrs. Springer's health is such as to prevent it. If I should visit Chicago I hope to have the pleasure of seeing you.

I am,

Very truly yours,  
Wm. M. Springer

---

1/16/1895

*From:* Rachel C. Burton

*To:* Mr. C. H. Howard

CHH-243

2 Sumner St.  
Hartford  
Ct.

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Mr. C. H. Howard

Dear Sir:

I shall be most happy to forward you the copy of "Yale" Lectures and other writings & I sincerely hope for the result you anticipate.

The book has passed into my hands; The <I. G.> Webster Co. which published it failed recently and in fact did little with it from the start. Agents who were to sell this as a subscription book at \$3.75 per vol. put little interest in it. Grant's Life & Mark Twain's stories being their specialities.

I have most delightful testimonies from clergy, professors & students, concerning its value & Rev. Dr. Graham, Pastor of Chicago Theo. Sem. is most enthusiastic over it & used it so far as its make up will allow as a class book. By his advice I issued a smaller edition as convenient for students, containing only the Lectures & three addresses delivered at Park Ch. by Rev. Pres. Dwight of Yale, & Rev. Dr. Parker & Rev Mr. Lonchell of our City.

The larger Vol. I have reduced in price to \$1.75 to clergymen & students; the smaller is \$1.25.

I will send you a copy of both vols. so soon as this storm which seems to mean business, subsides. Aside from the fact that I believe the book will prove an intellectual & spiritual stimulus to any who will carefully read it, and that also I would have my husband's work & memory held in grateful remembrance, from a financial stand point I greatly desire to make the book more of a success & every vol. sold is a great comfort to me.

Thanking you for your kindness which I do assure you is fully appreciated.

I am yours most truly.

Rachel C. Burton  
2 Sumner St.  
Hartford  
Ct.

Jan 16th 1895.

Any orders sent to my address will receive immediate attention.

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2/1/1895

*From:* Wm. Jackson

*To:* Mr. Charles Carleton  
Coffin

CHH-244a

ESTES & LAURIAT  
Publishing and  
Wholesale Departments  
Estes Press,  
192-202 Summer St.  
Boston

Boston, Mass.

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[Letterhead]

ALL BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO THIS ADDRESS.

ESTES & LAURIAT  
Publishing and Wholesale Departments  
Estes Press,  
192-202 Summer St.  
Boston, Feb. 1, 1895

Mr. Charles Carleton Coffin,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Mr. Coffin:-

I find yours of the 26th ult. on my return from a short trip, and hasten to send the books to Maj. Howard as suggested.

With kind regards, I remain  
Your truly,  
Wm. Jackson

Dictated.



---

4/10/1895

*From:* John P. Nicholson

*To:* General Charles A.  
Howard

CHH-244

Military Order of the  
Loyal Legion of the  
United States  
Commandery-in-Chief  
Philadelphia

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[Letterhead]

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States  
Commandery-in-Chief  
Philadelphia

April 10th 1895

General Charles A. Howard

Dear General:-

Your esteemed communication of March 2d, enclosing letter to Mr. Coffin reached me in due course of mail. As I wanted to read it over with considerable care I have refrained from acknowledging until this morning.

The death of the Comte de Paris will doubtless prevent the use of the mass of material that he accumulated during his visit to this country, that would have been the basis of a very considerable modification of his views regarding the Battle of Gettysburg.

I hope in the near future to visit Chicago, and will gladly embrace the opportunity of having a talk with you upon the various details your letter suggests.

With sincere regards,

Yours truly,  
/s/ John P. Nicholson

---

8/1/1895

*From:*

*To:* Oliver Otis Howard

CHH-245a

Howard & Wilson Pub.  
Co.  
Madison and Franklin  
Sts.  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]

HOWARD & WILSON PUB. CO.,  
MADISON AND FRANKLIN STS.,  
CHICAGO, ILL.

Sketch of Bangor experiences for Gen. O. O. Howard, [assume August 1] 1895.

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8/1/1895

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* General O. O. Howard

CHH-245

Chicago, Illinois

156 College St.,  
Burlington, Vt.

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Letterhead

Farm, Field and Fireside,  
Formerly Farm, Field and Stockman,  
Gen. C. H. Howard - Managing Editor  
Jas. W. Wilson - Business Manager  
Arthur H. Day - Treasurer  
Madison and Franklin Streets  
Chicago, \_\_\_\_\_ 1895 [Assume August 1]

COPY.

Gen'l O. O. Howard,  
156 College St.,  
Burlington, Vt.

Dear Brother:-

I have your favor to Mac of the 23rd. He has sent you papers containing the debate [See Note below]. He could get at the Record a little more easily and sent that instead of the Inter Ocean. Although the Record is not a silver paper, yet I think the reports are full. I have attended the discussion once since my return from the south and it is evident that Harvey has the better of Horr, because the latter gets excited and goes off on tangents. Harvey is cool and logical. Horr tells stories; pokes fun at Harvey; often gets up a laugh, but does not seem to carry conviction. The majority of the house are evidently with Harvey.

I note what you ask in regard to my room-mate and the names of classmates at Bangor. At this moment I could not give you the names of all my classmates but could have a perfect list sent to you. My room-mate was Americus Fuller, who is now a Rev. Dr., and is at the head of the Beirut College, one of the <A.B.C.A.M.> colleges in Asia Minor; a very noble man. He was, for a while, pastor of the old Congregational church at Hallowell where Rowland and I, you will remember, first joined the church. He was afterwards pastor of a church in Minn. for many years and then went abroad and has, I think, been connected with the Beirut College for some fifteen years or more. He was also my classmate at Bowdoin College and was a young man of most faultless character. I never saw any evidence of a ruffled temper in the many years I was associated with him. He was of quiet, unobtrusive demeanor, of excellent mental ability, stood among the first in the class at Bowdoin and exhibited the same high scholarship at Bangor Seminary.

One other classmate was Rev. Dr. Thos. K. Noble, who, for many years, was pastor of a church in San Francisco but is now, I believe, at Norwalk, Conn. Another was Rev. Edwin A. Rand, who has been the author of a number of successful books for boys, and who is located at Waterbury, Mass. He was also a Bowdoin student and always an intimate friend and is to this day: a man of lovely disposition and of fine literary abilities. The Sec'y of our Bangor class is P. B. Fisk, who is pastor of a church at Lyndon, Vt. Noble, you will call to mind, was the chaplain of the 128th. U.S.C.T., my regiment, by my appointment and afterwards served as Supt. Of Education in Ky. for the Freedman's Bureau. He has proved to be one of our most successful pastors. Rev. R.D. Douglas was, for many years, in charge of a large "newsboy's home" in Brooklyn. He was also associated with our friend, E.P. Smith, as a kind of right-hand man or Assistant Supt. in the Christian Commission work in the west. I met him down on the banks of the Tennessee River at Bridgeport, and we had pleasant chats concerning our happy life in Bangor and particularly our mutual acquaintances in Central church. I had come down the river from Chattanooga, thirty miles, in a canoe, bearing dispatches.

The pastors of Central Church were, at that time, two of the professors, Rev. Dr. Shepard and Rev. Dr. Samuel Harris, since, for many years, head of the Yale Theological Seminary (See note at end). Kitty Foster, as she was then known (Mary Katharine Foster) was a member of that church and one of a bible class of seven or eight young ladies which I taught. I first saw her in the social meetings of that church and in that Sunday school. I taught the class at the particular request of Rev. Dr. Harris.

Of course I could go on and give a very extended account of my life in Bangor, but in the midst of business, I am afraid I cannot take the time and recall it with the vividness and detail which you desire. I will endeavor to write something more fully upon the subject. For fear I should not reach it soon, I will add a few more items.

You ask if I drilled in Bangor. No, I did not. The Second Regiment was forming there at the time I received your summons to come to Augusta. Fuller and I were rooming in the seminary building, that is, in the building where the recitation rooms and the library were located, the only room in that building. I left at once on the call from you; leaving my clothes hanging in the closet and my books upon the table, and did not return there for two years. I did not take any trunk. Some things were afterwards packed in my trunk by Fuller and sent to Mother at Leeds. Some other things I found after I was wounded and returned to Bangor. I may say in passing that I received a very warm welcome from my old professors when I returned leaning upon a cane and not less from Mr. and Mrs. Foster, Judge McGaw, Mrs. Foster's father, who was then living, and a sufficiently cordial greeting from the young lady to make me very happy. I had corresponded with her in the field and continued to do so more frequently in the subsequent years of the war.

At one time, when I had a brief leave of absence while we were in Lookout Valley, I visited Richmond, Ind. Miss Foster was then in Milwaukee on a visit to her uncle, Mr. John Rice. I came as far as Chicago from Richmond (my first sight of the city which was to become my permanent home) with the thought of visiting her in Milwaukee. But for some reason, either from lack of courage or lack of time, I did not go to Milwaukee. You know something about the courage question in regard to shot and shell and whistling bullets and the hardships of various campaigns, but you probably would not be so well posted as to my ability, at that time, to meet that particular young lady.

I do not know whether you would care to mention that I was engaged in teaching a high school at Holden, near Bangor, in the fall of 1860. I obtained that school as a chance of earning some money and being near to Bangor so that I could easily go there at its close and could keep somewhat in touch with the seminary even during my stay there. I occupied the pulpit at that place occasionally and did what I could, in connection with my school, in other evangelistic work. We had some very interesting evening prayer meetings in the schoolhouse where I taught and there were a number of conversions at that time.

Referring again to the drilling and departure of the Second Maine from Bangor: You will call to mind that there was a good deal of romance, as well as real patriotism, connected with the recruiting and equipping of these first regiments of the war. The ladies in Bangor assembled every day in a hall to make uniforms, Havelock caps, etc. One of the two or three most vivid recollections I have of those times was what I saw in one of those halls one morning. The ladies were at work all through the lower part of the hall and also in the gallery above. There were groups of young ladies, some of whom were my friends and acquaintances, in different parts of the hall engaged in sewing and folding, packing, etc. I remember distinctly one tall young lady in the gallery, with her large hat of light straw with cherry colored ribbon, and that, after going around and seeing the nature of the work upon the uniforms and speaking with some of my other acquaintances, I went into the gallery and said a few words to this young lady. You can easily guess who it was.

I talked freely with my friends at this time, and particularly with my classmates in regard to the war. Some were of the opinion that it would last but a few months. Mr. Seward's proposition was often quoted, "over in three months". I remember of saying at the breakfast table, to a dozen or so of my classmates who were near as I sat at the head of the table, that I had met at West Point different persons from the south, from Alabama, from Virginia, and indeed from almost all southern states, and that they were of the same blood and had the same disposition and grit that we had, and instead of the war lasting but a few months I would more readily believe it would last ten years, but that, of course, we must go into it with the purpose to conquer if it took twice that time, and that I was prepared to do so.

Within a day or two I received your summons and left for Augusta as I have mentioned.

One other incident connected with the Second Maine was that of the presentation of a beautiful silk banner. It was presented by Miss Rubena McRuer. You afterwards met her, with her father, Surgeon McRuer on Sedgwick's staff. She was a beautiful woman and was a very warm friend of the Fosters and especially kind to Kitty Foster, as she called her, who was considerably younger. The presentation was made from some high steps on Broadway, a little east of Mr. Foster's house. Miss McRuer would have passed well for the Goddess of Liberty herself and her words were most eloquent and touching as she handed the silk banner to Col. Jameson. It was a most thrilling occasion and the impression of it has

been deepened since I knew Col. Jameson in the field and how he gave up his life for his country; leaving his charming wife a widow, with their little family of orphans in their sorrow and loneliness these many, many years. Kitty Foster was standing near to Miss McRuer in this somewhat characteristic tableau of those times.

You say "I have to write the Bangor chapter without any information from him" (meaning me). Now I think I have given you a little information but whether it can be woven in with any interest I cannot say.

Bangor people were as patriotic as any I have ever known. Both Dr. Harris and Dr. Shepard preached wonderfully strong sermons, worthy to be compared with the orations of Fisher Ames or James Otis or Patrick Henry, and they greatly moved the hearts of the people. Of Course I was subject to this influence; particularly as I greatly revered Dr. Geo. Shepard. Please bear in mind that Dr. Shepard was in his earliest pastorate, the pastor of that same Hallowell church, and, under a remarkable providence, he happened to be supplying the pulpit of that church on the very day that brother Rowland and I were admitted to its membership. I had a tender, filial feeling for him, different from that I had for any other pastor, partly on this account and the historic association with Hallowell, connected with our grandfather and our other relatives and yourself, and partly, no doubt, because he was my pastor and that of Miss Foster at the time of my stay in Bangor and when I left for the war; the most impressionable periods in my entire history.

I should perhaps state distinctly, as you might not have the fact, that I was not formally affianced to Miss Foster at the time I returned to Bangor but, at a later period, in Augusta, Me., I took the first pronounced step, when I came to that city with letters from you to the Governor to raise another Maine regiment, of which I was to be Col. and Beebee Lieutenant Col. Mr. Foster was then president of the state senate and his wife and daughter were staying in Augusta. I then obtained formal permission from Mr. Foster to correspond with his daughter. We were not actually engaged until after the war, in August 1866, and we were married December 5th 1867.

Now please indicate if you want any incidents of any subsequent period. I think if you ask any definite question or mention any definite date that I can, by reference to letters and diary, supply something at least as you may desire. I kept somewhat of a diary in the battle of Fredericksburg and I think during some of the other battles, like Antietam and perhaps Gettysburg. While in the west I wrote some letters for publication in the Cincinnati Gazette in regard to the Atlanta campaign, and battles of Lookout Valley, Chattanooga, the march to the sea, etc.

Affectionately

P.S. One other member of my class was a very dear friend, a member of the same college fraternity at Bowdoin, and one who used to come to my room for a season of prayer regularly with us and when I left for the war he gave me a Testament printed in London and which he recommended because the type was so clear cut although small. I carried the Testament in my pocket during the war and have kept it until this day. This friend was Samuel Tenney, the son of Chief Justice Tenney of Maine. My impression is that you were acquainted with his father and perhaps his sister. Our friendly name was "Sam" Tenney and he was a general favorite. His eye-sight was greatly impaired and that was one reason why he prized so highly a well printed Testament. He afterwards became nearly, if not totally, blind and was never able to take a pastorate. He did, however, go into the field in the army of the Potomac in the Christian Commission and I met him there. Few men had the facility he had of getting close to the hearts of those who knew him. It gave him a great hold upon the young everywhere and was the secret of his efficiency in the Christian Commission work. He is one of those who has passed on to his heavenly reward.

I might mention other noble men in my class, some who are represented now by sons and daughters in the foreign field and in other useful avocations at home, but this will answer for my present purposes.

C.H.H.

[Note: The "Great Debate of 1895" was between Hon. Roswell G. Horr (former congressman from Michigan) and William H Harvey, who had published "Coin's Financial School" in 1894. It was held in Chicago for nine days beginning July 16, 1895. Horr was arguing for the gold standard and Harvey for the silver standard. McKinley, a supporter of the gold standard, was elected president in 1896.]

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6/28/1896

*From:* Senator Henry M.  
Teller

*To:* Mr. C. H. Howard

CHH-246

United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C.  
[Crossed out]

Morrison, Illinois

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[Letterhead]

United States Senate,  
Washington, D.C. [Crossed out]

Morrison, Illinois

June 28, '96

Mr. C. H. Howard

Dear Sir:

I have yours of the 25th inst. I remember you very well in connection with your services in the Indian Department and having on several occasions discussed the Indian Question with you.

Thanks for your congratulations and words of encouragement. I have not had the pleasure of seeing the current numbers of either of the papers of which you are Editor-in-Chief, but presume they will come later. Nor have I received Mr. Wilson's book here, although I have read his work entitled "Why Times are Hard."

I will send this letter in by my brother, James H. Teller, whom I think you met in Washington while I was Secretary.

I would like, if possible, to talk this matter over with you and discuss some phases which I think are especially important for the farmers of the Country, but I leave for Denver tomorrow night and I fear I shall not be able to return to Illinois during the Campaign.

I am very truly yours,  
Henry M. Teller  
[U.S. Senator from Colorado]

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11/17/1896      *From:* Gen'l O. O. Howard      *To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-247

156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

Farm, Field & Fireside  
Chicago. Ill.

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[Letterhead]

Gen'l O. O. Howard  
156 College Street,  
Burlington, Vermont

Nov. 17/96

Dear Brother:

Senator Hoar asked me about you , as he sat by my side at the Home-Market Club, Boston Tuesday night last. He said: "Did Chas. Howard go for Bryan? Well, I had a son who voted for Cleveland &c." Then he said: "Send your brother my kindest remembrances, & tell him to come back & let the wound heal by first intention."

At St. Louis: Major Hitchcock (Sherman's staff) said: I want to ask you a question (perhaps I ought not). Did your brother vote for Bryan?"... I told him about your paper, & the 16 to 1 matter & then following the theories of such men as Teller &c. He said it was strange.

As McKinley is a man who fears God & keeps his Commandments, I am looking for a great blessing from God to all our people. At camp there is sin as there was during the war but we must never be mad enough to suppose that the holders of capital are the most sinful, or the laborers either. In thorough & hearty cooperation both are benefitted & blessed. Each individual soul is responsible to God.

Give much love to all the family from all of us. Bessie heard from Mac thro Susie Thompson. Nellie Kress (Col. Kress' daughter; he was on Wadsworth's staff, now in Ord. Dept. & an old friend of ours stationed at Ft. <Davis, Gaff. Rks.>) she is with us; came home with all the family thro N.Y. & Boston. Harry & I brot. her from St. Louis.

Aff Your Brother  
Otis

Gen. C. H. Howard  
Farm, Field & Fireside  
Chicago. Ill.

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12/7/1896

*From:* William J. Bryan

*To:* Mr Howard

CHH-248

Lincoln, Neb.

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[Letterhead]

William J. Bryan  
Lincoln, Neb.,

Dec 7 96

Dear Mr. Howard,

The editorial which you enclose was published in the World Herald nearly two years before I became connected with the paper. It was published Nov 1892. My connection began Sept 1 '94. I called attention to this several times during the campaign. It was one of the most malicious misrepresentations that I ever knew of. I was in Congress 4 years & the fact that they rely on any editorial which I did not write instead of attacking my record ought to convince thinking men. I have not rec'd your first letter - it may be among those not yet opened. My idea is to consolidate all of our forces for educational work into our non partisan organization but I do not discuss it publicly but I am comparing with others & the places are not matured. They will be made public as soon as perfected. Thanking you for your continued interest in myself and wife as well as in the cause I <argue>.

Your truly  
W. J. Bryan



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4/28/1897

*From:* Senator Henry  
Moore Teller  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

*To:* C. H. Howard, Esq.

Farm Field and Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

April 28th, 1897

C. H. Howard, Esq.,  
Farm Field and Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

Replying to yours of the 23rd instant in regard to the appointment of Rev. Thos. L. Riggs to the position of Indian Inspector, I regret to say that I am unable to assist you. Owing to the fact that I antagonized Mr. McKinley's election I have thought that it would be inconsistent in me to attempt to influence appointments under his administration. I have therefore, decided to make no recommendations looking to the distribution of the federal patronage and am making none, not even from my own state.

Yours truly,

M Teller  
[Henry Moore Teller, Senator from Colorado]

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7/24/1897

*From:* Gen'l O. O. Howard

*To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-250

156 College Street  
Burlington Vt.

Farm, Field & Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]

Gen'l O. O. Howard  
156 College Street  
Burlington Vt.

July 24th, 1897

Gen. C. H. Howard,  
Farm, Field & Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Brother:

After a night's consideration of your letter of the 21st inst. I have concluded to raise the money here and send it in a draft on New York to you by this mail. Please take up the accepted draft on me, and send it to me in exchange, immediately on the receipt of this. I thought from your letter that you were worried for fear something might happen to me and that you might have to wait in getting repayment, beyond the time specified, and as my credit is still good here, it is better to relieve you at once from any monetary obligation. In any other place than Chicago, I should feel confident of getting our case, but Chicago seems to have the ability to cheat other people ad libitum, and the complications of the law business are variegated and endless. I do not wonder that even good people of Chicago are becoming pessimistic.

Your enclosures touching John A. Logan with your own very kind comments were recd. It is literally true that General Sherman did not care a straw for West Point, but was looking for men who suited his ideas. From the time he and I met in crossing the Great Tennessee till the close of the war Sherman gave me his confidence. Gordon Granger was a West Pointer, and had a good reputation as a fighter, but Sherman recommended that I replace him. Hooker was a West Pointer and on the spot, yet I was recommended by Thomas and Sherman for the army. I was senior to Logan and it was not unnatural to send me to command that army. I expect that some of these squibs from individual friends of Logan would appear at the unveiling of his monument. Logan was a patriot and a fine soldier; but I hope that "the Almighty" made me as much as He did him and will sustain me in all perplexities unto the end.

Affectionately your brother,  
/s/ O. O. Howard  
(E)

P.S. Lizzie rejoiced in Kitty's good letter this morning received. Love to all. I shall try to be with you Wednesday night the 28th inst. O.O.H.

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5/16/1898

*From:* Senator Wm. E.  
Mason

*To:* Mr. C. H. Howard

CHH-251

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

Farm, Field, & Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

May 16, 1898.

Mr. C. H. Howard,  
Farm, Field, & Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

My hope and ambition has been to have passed at this session the bill which I introduced known as the Postal Savings Bank Bill, which would give to the Government all the money they want at a low rate of interest. It would come in small sums from the people and the interest would be paid by the government directly to the people. Not being able to get that through in time for the war purposes, I should favor borrowing on the notes or bonds of the government from the people through the post offices. I have been told by Mr. Secretary Gage that it is the plan that the small bonds, as low as twenty-five or fifty dollars, will be placed on subscription for the people in over 60,000 offices. This leaves no possibility for syndicates to speculate, and places the government in direct business relations with the people.

Very respectfully yours,  
Wm. E. Mason  
[Senator from Illinois]

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5/18/1898

*From:* Denis Wortman

*To:* Dr. Gregg

CHH-252

Saugerties, N. Y.

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Saugerties, N. Y.  
May 18, 1898

My dear Doctor Gregg:

I wonder if you have any suggestions as to this inclosed for a <> National Hymn I would be gtly obliged if you would glance it over, & make any suggestions in brief so as not to take your valuable time. I have written it in accordance with Mr. Eilles F. Bushnell's vision, for a hymn embodying the heart-center of your most admirable lesson.

With gt esteem,  
Yours fraternally,  
D. Wortman

America for the World!  
By Denis Wortman

Oh, why shall we our Country love,  
Oh, why for her be strong,  
Except to lift the Right above  
The proud and wrathful Wrong?  
For this we pray the Lord of Hosts  
Our Conquering Captain ba<>  
And thrill the Nation's utmost coasts  
With holy victory!  
(Chorus) America! America!  
'Gainst wrong Thy might be <hurled>  
For thee in lift our loud Huzza!  
Our Country for the World! We sing,  
In peace and battle-field  
Till tyrants do the righteous thing,  
Or to these mandates yield.  
Now God be for our own dear land,  
And she for our God be;  
Conquered and conquering by his hand,  
In Him made glad & free!  
(Chorus)

Our Country for the World! we sing  
But in no worldly way;  
Our Country to the Lord in bring,  
And for her fervent pray:  
God make her true! God make her pure  
God make her wise & good!  
And through her may the Christ make sure  
Man's world-wide Brotherhood!  
(Chorus)  
Broader, O God, than wide domains  
Be her designs divine;  
Richer than all her golden veins  
Her charities benign;  
<> than stalwart mountain towers  
Her fixed faith in Thee;  
Nobler her triumphs through Thy power  
Than luck on land and sea!  
(Chorus)  
Great God! Our Country for the World;

And all the World for Thee!  
Christ's banners o'er all lands unfurl'd  
In high exultancy!  
Dear Day of God, speed on, speed on!  
Speed truth & peace & love;  
Tell all below for Him be won,  
Earth rivalling realms above!

Saugerties-on-Hudson, N. Y.  
May 19th 1898

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5/29/1898

*From:* Cyrus Hamlin

*To:* Genl C. H. Howard

CHH-253

Lexington [Mass]

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Lexington [Mass] May 29, 1898

Genl C. H. Howard

My dear Brother

Your letter woke up all my love & affectionate remembrances of your departed brother [Rowland Bailey Howard, died January 25, 1892 in Rome, Italy at a Peace Congress]. I loved him with no common love for he was clear-headed, sympathetic, unselfish, intelligent with regard to all questions, in a word such a man as one always likes to meet & always feels the better for having met him. He wanted me to go with him to that meeting. I wish I had gone. I would have tried to relieve him of some of those crushing duties that cost him his dear life.

The mention of your wife's family carried me back 64 years when I visited Bangor during Oct 1834. I was hardly located in my room when "Squire" McGaw called upon me to inquire if I was a son of Hon. Hannibal Hamlin of Waterford. Finding I was he most cordially invited me to his house & charged me to consider it as my Bangor home – which I always did. Your wife's mother lives in my memory always as "Kate McGaw" always bright, cheerful, lively & universally admired.

I saw her last winter in all her matronly dignity but still she is Kate McGaw & has beautifully and nobly developed. O that the life of the lovely sister [Cornelia Foster Riggs] could have been spared. Bid of all our beloved & departed we can cheer ourselves by saying "There is a happy loved 'not so' far far away", etc.

I do not find a solitary Peace Advocate. I recall the interest with which I used to read those personal letters. I sometime gave them to a friend. I think it strange that I have not found one & I shall still search but not with much hope. I keep no papers on file. We sent them away to <unsummed> places where they may do good.

Yes our country has entered on a new course without intending & without knowing it. She cannot retreat. She has been turned ever cowardly in foreign affairs. She must now vindercate her place among the nations. They will try to embarrass us in settling our accounts with Spain but of England's lands by us we have nothing to fear. It is all of the Lord who is wonderful in command.

I too am a farmer & my old muscles respond to the hoe if to nothing else. I shall read the numbers you had the kindness to send me, with great interest.

Assure your dear wife of the affection with which <lona> hers & yours.

Cyrus Hamlin.

[1811-1900. He was an American Congregational missionary and educator]

I am incensed against our government that they have not called O. O. Howard into their councils. The Godless element keeps him out.

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11/21/1898

*From:* Josiah Strong

*To:* Gen'l. C. H. Howard

CHH-254

LEAGUE FOR SOCIAL  
SERVICE  
UNITED CHARITIES  
BUILDING  
Fourth Avenue and 22d  
Street  
New York

Farm, Field & Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]

LEAGUE FOR SOCIAL SERVICE  
UNITED CHARITIES BUILDING  
Fourth Avenue and 22d Street  
New York

Incorporated 1898

OFFICERS

Josiah Strong, President

Wm. H. Tolman, Secretary

Spencer Trask, Treasurer

Nov. 21st, 1898.

Gen'l. C. H. Howard,  
Farm, Field & Fireside,  
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Sir:-

Your very kind letter of the 19th inst. came to hand this morning. We are very happy to put you on our list, and send you under another cover samples of all the leaflets thus far issued. We hope to add largely to their number in the near future.

Thanking you heartily for your sympathy and co-operation, I am,

Yours cordially,  
/s/ Josiah Strong

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3/29/1899

*From:* Charles H. Howard

*To:* Dearest [Katherine  
Howard]

CHH-255

East Palatka Junction  
[Florida]

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East Palatka Junction [Florida]  
Saturday Mar. 29 1899

Dearest:

As I am stranded here for 3/4 of an hour I may do what I always like to do - have a little chat on paper with you. Father came up from Ormond as expected this morning but when he got off the cars at Thigpen I got on with Mr. White who had spent last night with me at Cousin Mary's. I went over to P. to get some washing & mail & do one or two little errands. Father received nothing at Ormond last night, though his principal reason for staying behind was to get any mail that might come. I found nothing this morning at P. have left word for our mail to be forwarded to Beach's and will now say that you had better address hereafter to San Mateo. I have no permanent pass as yet & it costs 50 cts to go to P. each way.

It is a cool beautiful morning. I suppose we began to feel the effects of the great storm last evening. It became much cooler in the night. First part of the night there were mosquitos in our room, tell Arthur. The paper indicates great destruction of property in Louisville & other parts of Ky & perhaps loss of life and snow storms in Nebraska, Ks & Mo. & I suppose in Dakota. Your letter told us somewhat about Louisa's visit. Father hopes to get home to see her & the children I believe. I trust she is getting a good rest & that she & the children will enjoy their visit & be the better for it. I go back to Rolleston X or to Thigpen on the freight train as I did once before. Mr White was great company last night. He has sold 1/2 interest in all his land & business to a Mr. Thos White of Cleveland O. - an old acquaintance but not a relation. He is much pleased because it provides needed cash to develop as he desired to do. Arthur & you will understand when I say he is as jolly & full of his jokes & stories as ever.

He urged me hard to go to his place today & come back at 4 P.M. & I told father I might do go but on returning from Palatka I thought it best to go up to Cousin Mary's by the Freight as father had not obtained today's paper & might be lonesome. I am sorry I can carry him no letters. Yesterday forenoon (Friday) we all took a ride - I driving the surrey - over to the old ruins of the sugar mill &c. Mr. Scott & Irene greatly admired the hammock scenery. Those splendid orange groves (including Mr. Carnell's) seem to be a complete wreck. Mr. C. even lost all his this year's oranges. Did not try to save one & next year's crop is gone even if he should save some of the trees which looks doubtful. After Sunday, finding that the wind was not right for our sail up to Bacon's on the "Old Jon Cat", as we had planned I decided to return to Mary's & I was very glad I did, as Mr. White came a half hour later & we had business to talk over. We have decided to put out tangerine trees - both because they stood the cold & because they are the only nursery stock not killed by the freeze.

We have them of Mr. Beach. I shall try to see him this eve'g & may find some mail from home. Hope so. I was much pleased to know how Katharine received her little Dakota friends. It augurs a warm place in her heart towards all missionaries I trust. Please give my love to Louisa & kisses to her little ones.

I like the idea of a daily hug & kiss from me for our sweet baby.

Fond love to you, Dearest, & a big bunch to each of the children & Mama. Popa [Kitty's father, John Burt Foster] will go to Mr. White's with me Monday & possibly spend the night there & then we will go on to Augustine together then will face Northward.

Lovingly your own  
Charlie



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8/5/1899

*From:* James K. McClure

*To:* General [Charles H]  
Howard

CHH-256

President's Office  
Lake Forest University  
Lake Forest, Illinois

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[Letterhead]

President's Office  
Lake Forest University  
Lake Forest, Illinois

Aug. 5th 1899

My dear General Howard,

I thank you for your kind letter of Aug. 3rd, and I will act upon its suggestions. I have an engagement for every Sabbath evening of September so that I cannot come to the Club as you kindly propose. I shall hope to appear before the people on some mid week evening some time as the year goes on.

With my very best wish, I am

Sincerely,

James G. K. McClure

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8/27/1900

*From:* Lawrence Riggs  
Howard

*To:* Charles H. Howard

CHH-257

Pocantico Hills, N.Y.

Glencoe Illinois

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Pocantico Hills, N.Y.  
August 27, 1900

Dear Papa,

Unless I miscalculate this ought to reach you on your birthday. I wish I could go with it and join in a good old family party. I realize from a letter from Mac I received last week that you and he are still very hard at it so to speak. I am hoping that you will have more opportunity for rest soon. I am always wishing that I could somehow take hold of things with you so that the burden would be lighter. However I suppose I can really help you most by doing my own work well, as well as I can.

Last night I preached on the text "Be ye imitators of God as beloved children" (Eph 5:1 R.V.), and in my conclusion I pictured in a few words a part of the ideal home relation, the child who looks to his father as all that is best and takes him as his ideal for imitation. Of course I had my own home and my own father in mind and I think that is one thing that made the reference effective. As I walked home with one of the people, a young married man with two young boys, we talked a long time about the father's place in the family. I felt that I had a right to speak on such a subject as I had the experience of the happiest home I know to speak from. My sermon was on Imitation and you can see what a text that was.

Each week now (in fact it has been so most of the time) I feel as if it were almost impossible for me to say more in the way of preaching, but when Sunday comes it almost invariably seems as if the message I have to give were worthwhile and more. It is so simple a message yet in how many, many ways it can be brought to bear with fresh force. I am getting a great deal of pleasure and profit from [Horace] Bushnell, Papa. I had no idea he was such a man. The big volume on his "Life and Letters" I have almost finished. I believe I never read anything of more absorbing interest. I have finished a careful reading of "Nature and the Supernatural," and have read many of the "Sermons for the New Life." I am interested to note your marks in the margin occasionally. I am marking very extensively. Of course the nature of my reading must be more close than if it were only for the general impression on myself.

I see from <uncut> pages that you have not read the Life thoro'ly, tho' your marks appear well on toward the end of the book. As I have been reading I have frequently been reminded of your desire to have some years of sufficient leisure for writing. How I wish that we boys might do something to make it possible, but I am every year having it born in upon me more and more strongly that as you always used to say, and as Bushnell says so often, our affairs are under a higher control than our own. The making of a man and stamping upon him the likeness of God is a serious work is it not? I received the report of the International Conference some weeks since and have greatly enjoyed going over some of those great scenes in mind-reading Dr Storr's speech for example, and Dr. Lyman's. I can almost see the latter's gestures and actually do hear in memory the tones of his voice. I leave to-morrow for Westport Point, Mass, to visit Dr. Hall's family. Next Sunday I expect to spend with Uncle John [Rev, John McGaw Foster, brother of Lawrence's mother Katherine Foster Howard] tho' Mrs Hall has invited me to stay until Monday.

Much love to all,

Affectionately, Lawrence

May your birthday be full of happy memories and the beginning of the best of years.

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3/7/1902

*From:* Harry S. Howard

*To:* General C. H. Howard

CHH-258

156 COLLEGE  
STREET  
BURLINGTON,  
VERMONT

Masonic Temple  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]

GEN'L O. O. HOWARD  
U.S. ARMY, RETIRED,  
156 COLLEGE STREET,  
BURLINGTON, VERMONT,

March 7, 1902

General C. H. Howard,  
Masonic Temple, Chicago.

Dear Uncle:-

Your letter of the 4th instant at hand. We expect to arrive in Chicago next Wednesday, March 12th at 5:25 p.m., Grand Central Station, via. Nickel Plate Railroad. We again take the 10:30 p.m. train the same night, North Western, for Tama, Iowa, and return to Chicago on the 15th.

Father says General Barlow broke down in health later in life and he doesn't know that he ever wrote anything on the Civil War. I find that he made no report after he was wounded at Gettysburg but that General Adelbert Ames (now at Lowell, Mass.) assumed command of the 1st Division, 11th Corps, and made the report of that campaign and engagement. He mentions the Adjutant General of the Division as Major J. M. Brown.

I cannot find in the Rebellion Records the names of any staff officers of Division Commanders except where they are mentioned in the reports of the Commanders.

Neither Longstreet nor Gordon have ever written father on the subject of the battle of Gettysburg. In his book Longstreet says:

"At 2:45 p.m. another call for help by the 1st Corps (U.S.) was received..... But then Ewell was swinging his Division under Early into line nearer to Gettysburg, Gordon's Brigade and Jones' Battery coming in in good time to make strong Rhodes' left and Hill's Corps had over-lapped the left of the 1st Corps (U.S.) so that General Howard found himself forced to command a steady, orderly retreat to Cemetery Hill."

"The Confederates followed through the streets of Gettysburg at 4 o'clock."

General Lee, I find in Longstreet's book, states that at 12 o'clock when he was at Cashtown listening to the firing that he was uncertain whether he had the Federal Army before him or only a detachment of it. He was very nervous, not having his cavalry.

I think perhaps after many weeks careful research several points may be cleared up as to the different hours of the day in which events occurred. But it is enough that the fact stands that the fight of the 1st and 11th Corps with the cavalry delayed the enemy all day, so that the final position on Cemetery Hill was thereby secured and made it impossible to drive the Union troops from that strong position while they were yet weak.

Hoping soon to see you, with love from father and myself.

Affectionately your nephew,  
Harry S. Howard.

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9/10/1902

*From:* General James  
Longstreet  
DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR.  
OFFICE OF THE  
COMMISSIONER OF  
RAILROADS.  
Washington, D.C.

*To:* General D. E. Sickles

CHH-259

Gettysburg, Pa.

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[Typewritten]

-COPY-  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.  
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF RAILROADS.

Washington, September 10, 1902

General D. E. Sickles,  
Gettysburg, Pa.

My dear General Sickles:

My plan and desire was to meet you at Gettysburg on the interesting ceremony attending the unveiling of the Slocum Monument; but to-day I find myself in no condition to keep the promise made you when last we were together. I am quite disabled from a severe hurt in one of my feet, so that I am unable to stand more than a minute or two at a time. Please express my sincere regrets to the noble Army of the Potomac, and to accept them, especially, for yourself.

On that field you made your mark that will place you prominently before the world as one of the leading figures of the most important battle of the Civil War. As a Northern veteran once remarked to me: "General Sickles can well afford to leave a leg on that field."

I believe that it is now conceded that the advanced position at the Peach Orchard, taken by your corps and under your orders saved that battlefield to the Union cause. It was the sorest and saddest reflection of my life for many years; but, to-day, I can say, with sincerest emotion, that it was and is the best that could have come to us all, North and South; and I hope that the nation, re-united, may always enjoy the honor and glory brought to it by that grand work.

Please offer my kindest salutations to your Governor and your fellow-comrades of the Army of the Potomac.

Always yours sincerely,  
(Signed) JAMES LONGSTREET,  
Lt.-Gen'l Confederate Army.

---

2/7/1903

*From:* Senator S. Moore  
Cullom

*To:* General C. H. Howard

CHH-260

United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

Masonic Temple  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]  
United States Senate,  
Washington, D. C.

February 7, 1903.

General C. H. Howard,  
Masonic Temple, Chicago.

My dear General,-

Your favor of the 5th inst., referring to the admission of New Mexico and Arizona into the union, has been received. The truth about it is, that every democrat in the senate and house is red hot for those territories being admitted as states, and they do not conceal the fact that they expect to get two senators from each of them. The Republican Party does not believe in admitting them for the purpose of helping out our democratic friends. Coming from the west, I naturally sympathize with the wishes of the people of those territories to be admitted into the union, but I do not like an omnibus arrangement, with the democrats, assisted by a minority of the republicans taking charge of the business.

I write this to you personally and privately, and not for publication.

Sincerely yours,  
/s/ M Cullom  
[Illinois Senator Shelby Moore Cullom]

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3/21/1905

*From:* Dr. Gabriel Grant

*To:* Genl C. H. Howard

CHH-261

22 E. 49 St  
New York, N.Y.

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N. Y. 22 E. 49  
21 Mch. 05

My dear Genl

Yours of the 27th was duly rec'd & I enclose the acct of the Fair Oaks Battle. The delay was caused by the illness of my <> type writer.

As it was written only four dys after the battle & before the excitement & stress of battle had subsided it is possible some errors may have crept in. But I would prefer it exactly as it is, as they are necessarily a part of the glamour of the great event. Make what additions you choose but only as additions so that my acct remains untouched. This will make my acct the more interesting. Please oblige me in this. As time pushes the events more & more in the past the individual engagements come back to me with surprising directness.

Whenever you come to New York come to see me. I would like to talk over these event of over 40 yrs ago. I will enclose a copy of the Fair Oaks to yr bro Gen O.O.

Please acknowledge this and <be here Genl yours>

Faithfully & Sincerely,  
G. Grant

In regard to the subs. Of the 'Farm Field & Fireside' of course I want a copy sent to me cont'g the War reminiscences. I will see what I can do on the G. A. R. Tho I have not attended any Post now for some <day>.

[Dr. Gabriel Grant was a surgeon, receiving a Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery during the Fair Oaks battle, where both Charles and Otis were wounded. He assisted them among others. The following is his account of the Fair Oaks Battle. It was enclosed in the letter, but is now located in the folder #53 of the Charles Henry Howard Collection at Bowdoin, rather than the correspondence folders.]

[typewritten]

THE BATTLE OF FAIR OAKS.  
A Faithful and Graphic Description.

Fair Oaks Station, Va., June 5, 1862.

I take the first opportunity to give you an account of one of the bloodiest battles ever fought on this continent, of which I was both participant and witness, enabling me to give you some particulars with accuracy. Some memoranda which give a view of the more enlarged operations than our own immediate force, I shall use freely. These may appear at another time, and for them I will account to you in the future.

Fair Oaks Station is a strategic point on the York River and Richmond Railroad, being necessary for the transmission of supplies to our army on its way to Richmond.

On the 31st of May, Gen. Casey occupied with his Division an entrenched camp consisting of an advanced lunette and an abattis supporting it, about a quarter of a mile in advance of this Station. Casey had some 20 pieces with him, and Couch's division in the rear for support. Further down the road was Heintzelman; and next in line of support was the corps of Sumner, containing the Divisions of Sedgwick and Richardson. The latter corps, and the corps of Fitz Jno. Porter and Franklin, distant about 6 or 7 miles, were, before the battle, on the other side of the Chickahominy.

On Friday night, this river was greatly swollen by a heavy rain falling that night. On Saturday the enemy attacked Casey, without even throwing out skirmishers; he threw his main body upon Casey with terrific fierceness, and completely routed him. Wagons, ammunition, private baggage, everything was captured, the men were either captured or scattered like chaff; many were shot before they could get out of their shelter camps. The enemy had a column of 30,000 of their best troops, with the daring corps of G. W. Smith and Longstreet at their head. The attack was made upon the entrenched camp of Casey. Couch's division fought well, but would have soon been a prey to the eager assault which was sweeping down upon them. Sumner's corps had been telegraphed to, and just one and a half hours before sunset Sedgwick with his division came into the action, and not only stayed the driving columns, but repulsed the enemy and drove him back, though not to the position lost by Casey.

The arrival and engagement of this force was most miraculously opportune. Richardson's Division crossing the Chickahominy at the military bridge was delayed by excessively swollen streams so long that it reached the battle field after a check had been given. We passed over the dead and dying in heaps all around us to within 500 yards of the enemy, who were lying on their arms in the woods. The fight had been desperate, and the soldiers of either side, friend and foe, within sight of each other, slept upon the literally red field together.

I have now come to June 1st, (Sunday). The enemy, the 5th Texas, 2nd Mississippi and 2nd Texas were within half musket shot of our line. I heard them during the night talk quite plainly. Our scouts, by a walk of a few minutes, discovered two brigades of the enemy waiting eagerly to fall upon us and devour us as he did Casey. We all knew that we should have in the morning a most desperate fight; that our enemy outnumbered us seven to one; that the main body of the army had not yet crossed the river; and that we would be reinforced only by Heintzelman on our left. About three o'clock in the morning our whole line "stood to arms", and before light the enemy drew in all his pickets. The line of railroad is bordered by woods on both sides except in a few open spaces; there was a large field, three fourths of a mile in extent, on the right front line of Gen. Richardson. Gen. French's Brigade with one regiment of Gen. Howard, constituting the front. And at this point Gen. Richardson posted a battery of ten pounder rifle Parrot guns, directed by Capt. Hazzard (4th. Artillery). The remaining regiments of Howard, formed a second line, with Gen. Thomas Francis Meagher's Brigade with the remaining eighteen pieces of artillery, as a third line.

The early part of the morning was quiet. Not a word was spoken much above a whisper. There was a slight shower, the sun came out, and the birds sang sweetly and tenderly, as if in mockery, over the field where death had, and, that morning, would continue his carnival.

The enemy made his first appearance on the other side of the large field, his skirmishers forming line across it and advancing. A body of cavalry was also seen in the woods on the other side, drawn up in column, as if to head a mass of infantry in column of attack for the assault. This appearance of the enemy drew the fire of a Parrot gun; their line of skirmishers fell back, the cavalry broke and the plan of attack was changed by him for the head of the column turned at once down the railroad. It was now half past six o'clock. All at once the enemy poured down upon our Brigade a most murderous fire. The fight began at 5 ½ o'clock, and continued to about 9 ½ o'clock in the morning, and though the enemy made several ineffectual attempts to renew the fight, but, as before he was driven back.

Gen. French has again covered himself with glory. He discovered, at an early hour in the morning, a gap in the line of battle fronting the enemy, of about half a mile, by which the left of his Brigade did not reach the right of Gen. Birney. He immediately communicated the fact to Gen. Richardson, who gave the order for him to close; when Gen. French changed the position of the 53rd. Penn. Vol., Col. Brooks, and hardly had they reached it, when suddenly a very large body of infantry sprang from the bushes, not 30 yards distant, and poured in the deadly missiles upon the unsuspecting soldiers. But though the dead fell in heaps, the ranks closed up, and they replied with most terrible effect. The 52nd N.Y., Col. Frank, on the right of this regiment, lost in killed, wounded and missing, nearly half of his command. Gen. French stood in the thickest of the fight, with his aids about him, his son, Lieut. French, and Capt. Fisk, his gallant Adjutant General, who fell at his side desperately wounded.

But though the troops of our column were unused to the iron hail of missels [sic], they stood like a wall of fire as seven thousand to thirty thousand - with twenty thousand as reserve, of the best troops of the rebel army hurled upon them. And after a most terrible conflict, in which almost every man was baptised with the blood of his comrade, they were, as Gen. French quietly yet proudly expressed it, as he looked upon his brave men, "unbroken and exultant".

During the fight 60 rounds of cartridges were expended, when Gen. Richardson sent up two regiments of

Gen. Howard to reinforce them. The Irish regiment of Gen. Meagher were much shattered in the conflict, and nobly sustained a reputation for gallantry and courage.

The enemy made a most precipitate retreat, and to complete the rout, the Parrot guns were opened upon them, and the rout became general, and they left upon the field their dead and wounded.

During the fight Gen. Howard fell, having been shot twice - at first wounded in the wrist; unable to hold his sword, and his horse killed, he refused to leave the field until a rifle ball struck his elbow, shattering his arm. Oh, how glad I was to be near to help him, the good, the gentle, brave Howard. He refused to allow me, after I had bound his arm, to have him carried from the field. He was anxious, not about himself, but about his brother, Lieut. Howard, aid de camp upon his staff, who limped up to the spot where I was standing with the General, his thigh desperately wounded with a musket ball.

Gen. Richardson's force brought into action was seven thousand men. The enemy had fifty thousand. Every mounted officer of the Division who took his charger into the field had his horse shot under him.

To show the habitual treachery of our enemy, let me tell you a circumstance. The first Regiment of the enemy which came into action wore blue clothes like our men; and they came into action opposite the 81st Pennsylvania Volunteers, (Col. Miller). Owen's Regiment is a regiment of Birney's brigade on the left of Richardson's Division. On the approach of Miller's regiment the enemy said, "Don't fire we're Owen's men". Col. Miller, who had his regiment at an aim, now gave the order to "recover arms". The enemy immediately poured in a deadly volley, by which Col. Miller was instantly killed. The 81st Pennsylvania infuriated by this treachery, poured in a fire by which the enemy's regiment lost its Colonel, Lieut. Colonel, Major and Adjutant, and the rest of the regiment broke and fled in utter confusion.

Losses. - This Division has by the action lost as available men for fighting, near 1,700 men, but 890 were killed, wounded and missing. Howard lost 500, French 300, and Meagher 90; 3,400 from all the forces engaged on Saturday and Sunday have already been shipped from White House as patients to general hospitals. Some idea of the rebel loss may be conveyed from the fact that 400 of their dead, including two colonels and two captains, have been buried within our lines. I saw 100 buried in one grave.

I cannot give you anything of an idea of the battle field after the action, it more than realized all that I have ever read. The wounds were generally in the abdomen and lower extremities. It is impossible for me to give you particulars of the hospital scenes. We had two hospital buildings, each of which was capable of holding about 40 or 50 patients, yet at each were 500. All operations were performed out of doors. Of those which came under my observation, those of the Union soldiers who were wounded, of two hundred and twenty-three - 20 were wounded in the head, 23 in the chest, 35 in arms, 101 in legs, 23 in abdomen, 2 in the back, 2 in head and neck, 4 in arms and thighs, 1 in arms and legs, 1 in abdomen and chest, 1 in abdomen and scrotum, 1 in head and chest, 1 in head, neck and thigh, 2 in arms and chest, 1 in arms and face, 2 in legs and thigh, 1 in legs and chest, 1 in abdomen and arm, 1 in abdomen and back. Of eighty-four Rebel wounded, 10 were wounded in the head, 6 in the chest, 13 in the arms, 40 in the legs, 6 in the abdomen, 1 in chest and thigh, 1 in arms and chest, 2 in legs and abdomen, 1 in arms and legs, 1 in the arms twice, fracturing and in face, ball entering left eye destroying it and passing through the face driving the other eye out of the face. This latter was a young man of a beautiful physical appearance, three days after the fight he was living, though in convulsions. These facts refer only to the wounded and not to the dead. I mention these facts not to excite any horror, but to give an idea of the character and direction of the shots, as far as came under my notice.

I cannot withhold my feeble tribute of admiration of the gallant conduct of the Rev. J. H. Dwight, son of the distinguished missionary of that name, and Chaplain of the 66th N.Y. Volunteers. Unconscious of peril he was unremitting in his attention to the wounded and dying. I wish I could tell you about his tenderness and kindness.

Gen. Richardson has achieved one of the most important victories of the war, and has given on this memorable 1st of June, by his presence and skill in sending up reserves at the seasonable moment, the opportunity, to many brave soldiers to distinguish themselves and to know in him, as their leader, the qualities of a great military chieftain.

The Hampton Legion, composed, as is the 7th Regiment of N.Y., of the crack troops of South Carolina, at Richmond, on Sunday was addressed by Jeff. Davis, and told that there was but one division of Union troops on this side of the Chickahominy and that the Legion would return the same day covered with Glory.



The ladies gave them an entertainment in which cakes and all the etc. abounded in profusion. Trains of carriages followed them out to witness their triumphant return with any quantity of defeated Yankees as prisoners. But you know how they were disappointed. Some of those crack young men were made to bite the dust, and one of the omnibuses with a few passengers in it was captured. This last was told me in the camp, the other was from the wounded Hampton Legion persons themselves.

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6/9/1905

*From:* Merritt Starr

*To:* Hon. John Hay

CHH-262

Chicago, Ill.

Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

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[Typewritten] COPY.

Chicago, June 9th, 1905.

Hon. John Hay,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:-

I take pleasure in recommending to your favorable consideration, Gen. Charles H. Howard of Chicago. I learn that his name has been presented to you for consideration in connection with a position in the Consular Service.

I have met General Howard as a member of the New Trier Township Board of Education for six years, during which the Board has organized the township high school work for several north shore villages, and being thrown intimately together in that work. For four of those years General Howard has been President of the Board. He has been far-sighted, industrious, public spirited, tactful and skillful in dealing with the affairs of the Board.

He was graduated A.B. at Bowdoin '59, enlisted as a private in the Union Army in 1861 and served as a member in succession in the Armies of the Potomac, of the Cumberland, and of the Tennessee, during which he filled every grade from private up to Colonel and was breveted Brigadier-General. He was on the firing line most of the time throughout his military service.

He was appointed Inspector of Indian Agencies by President Garfield in 1881 and served in that office from 1881 to 1884 under President Arthur, filling the difficult post with great skill.

He has now for twenty years been Editor of the Farm, Field and Fireside, an Agricultural paper, having a wide circulation in the West. He combines the humanitarian interests of the reformer with practical knowledge and judgement. By his intimate knowledge of our agricultural development and of the distribution of foreign immigration in the United States, he is especially well equipped for obtaining information bearing on the export and use abroad of American products.

I have the honor to remain,  
Your servant and friend,

Merritt Starr. [Chicago Lawyer]

---

10/27/1905	<i>From:</i> Judge Richard S. Tuthill	<i>To:</i> Honorable Elihu Root
CHH-263	CRIMINAL COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS Chicago, Illinois	Secretary of State, Washington, D.C.

---

(Copy)

[Typewritten Letter]  
CRIMINAL COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
Chicago, Illinois, October 27, 1905

Honorable Elihu Root,  
Secretary of State,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

I am informed that the name of General Charles H. Howard has been or will be presented for an appointment either in the diplomatic or consular service. General Howard is the same kind of a man as his distinguished brother, General O. O. Howard, than which I do not know how to give him a higher commendation. He is patriotic as is evidenced by honorable wounds received in his country's service – he is a man of education and fine ability, sincere and absolutely devoted to high ideals and high and noble purposes. I know of no better man and none more persistent in doing right – whether as citizen or patriot.

He has long had a familiar knowledge of governmental business, especially in the Interior and War Departments, and has held positions of large responsibility in each.

I wish to commend him and ask his appointment and take pleasure in saying that there is no citizen of Chicago who stands higher in the esteem and respect of all classes of our citizens than General Charles Howard. His appointment to represent our government abroad will meet instant and universal approval and in an especial manner among his comrades in the Grand Army of the Republic and in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion.

Very respectfully,  
(Signed) Richard S. Tuthill  
[Judge]

---

1/4/1906

*From:* Stephen D. Lee

*To:* Hon. Knute Nelson

CHH-264

United Confederate  
Veterans  
Columbus, Miss.

United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

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UNITED CONFEDERATE VETERANS

Stephen D. Lee,  
General Commanding  
Wm. E. Mickle  
Adjutant General and Chief of Staff  
Post Office Box 1197  
New Orleans 00 Louisiana.

COMMANDING GENERAL'S OFFICE

Columbus, Miss., Jan 4th, 1906.

Hon. Mr. Nelson, [Knute Nelson, Senator from Minnesota from 1895-1923]  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:-

I have before me a copy of the Bill introduced by you entitled "Volunteer Retired List," which authorizes the placing thereon certain surviving officers of the United States Volunteer Army of the Civil War and for other purposes.

No Confederate soldier objects to a pension being given to a Union soldier who was generally on the firing line. It is a fact that the great Civil War on both sides was fought mainly by volunteer troops, and as your Bill only takes in certain general officers who have reached the age of seventy years, and so also special pensions were granted Gen. Joseph R. Hawley [Union] and Gen. P. J. Osterhaus [Union], who were thus retired with pay, and as also Gen. Joseph Wheeler [Confederate] and Gen. Fitzhugh Lee [Confederate] were placed on the Retired List of the Army as Brigadier Generals, on account of service as Officers of United States volunteers. It gives me great pleasure to express the wish that your Bill may become a law, and the gallant soldiers of the Union Army who were Generals or Brevet-generals, may receive retired pay so long as they may live. I feel sure that I echo the sentiments of every gallant Confederate soldier, in expressing this wish.

With kind wishes,  
Yours truly,  
(Signed) Stephen D. Lee.

COPY

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1/6/1906

*From:* Hon. Elihu Root

*To:* General C. H. Howard

CHH-265

Department of State,  
Washington, D. C.

Glencoe,  
Cook County, Illinois

---

[Letterhead]  
Appointments  
Department of State,  
Washington

January 6th, 1906.

General C. H. Howard,  
Glencoe,  
Cook County, Illinois,

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of December 15th, transmitting endorsements of yourself for appointment in the diplomatic or consular service. Your application will have careful consideration.

Respectfully,  
Elihu Root

---

2/9/1906

*From:* Rep. Loren Fletcher

*To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-266

House of  
Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

Chicago, Ill.

---

[Letterhead]  
House of Representatives  
Washington

Feb. 9th. 1906.

Gen. C. H. Howard.  
Chicago.

My dear General:-

Your letter at hand. The bill providing for a volunteer Officers retired list has not yet come up for consideration in our committee.

The opposition is confined principally to those persons who are "against" everything. If there is not a deficit in the treasury department, and if other appropriations are kept within proper bounds the bill has a fair show for passage, but I think it will come in probably as a Senate Amendment. Assuring you again of my hearty co-operation

Very Truly Yours

/s/ L. Fletcher

[This is probably Loren Fletcher, Representative from Minnesota from 1893 to 1906.]

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2/23/1906

*From:* Gen. C. H. Howard

*To:* Hon. W. B. Allison

CHH-267

U.S. Volunteers  
1000 Tribune Building  
Chicago, Ill.

U. S. Senator

---

From Gen. C. H. Howard,  
U.S. Volunteers

1000 Tribune Building  
Chicago, February 23, 1906

Hon. W. B. Allison,  
U. S. Senator.

Dear Sir:-

Thank you for your frank statements concerning the bill for a Volunteer Retired List. The fact that the officers who commanded brigades and higher commands, averaged considerably older than those of lower grade makes it seem more necessary to act on their behalf promptly if at all.

But other Congressmen have seen the difficulty of making any discrimination as to rank – notably Capt. Hull, Chairman of the Military Committee of the House. An amendment has been suggested to him including all ranks but reducing the pay to one half.

For my own part I would rather see the measure go through without any pay attached – putting these officers on this roll of honor (suitably limited as to actual service on the fighting line) than not to have the policy of a due recognition of volunteer officers adopted. If the bill could be passed in this form and the Volunteer Retired List established with the accurate record as to ages, length of service, present residence, etc., then whenever cases of actual want were brought to the attention of Senators or Members of Congress, some subsequent measure could be enacted to meet these cases. I know there are a number of such instances of officers who were wounded and distinguished for their gallantry, and it amounts to almost a disgrace to our country that such veterans should be allowed to suffer, or to feel the degradation of extreme penury.

Instead of passing a bill to meet a single case as has been done from time to time, could not a law be enacted, say in connection with general appropriations, making provision for officers of seventy years or of some age above seventy, who should make formal application endorsed by their Congressman and Senator?

There is no pension provided, I believe, for the Volunteer officer – the only pension available being the \$12 per month intended for enlisted men at the age of seventy. Our policy in regard to Volunteer Officers of the Civil War does not compare favorably with that adopted after our other national wars.

I know some volunteers who were appointed into the regular army and immediately retired. They were so appointed for the sole purpose of securing the retired officer's pay. In fact many regular officers who served by my side and were wounded in the same battles were retired years ago on three-quarters pay. There is a palpable injustice here that I am sure you will recognize.

But the broad ground, it seems to me, on which to base the legislation is that our country wants to depend on Volunteers in all great emergencies and to keep down our standing army to as low a limit as possible. Why not, then, establish the principle that at some age Volunteer officers shall be honored and treated the same as Regulars?

My service was mostly as Adjutant General or Inspector General with my brother, Gen. O. O. Howard; for three years, however, I had an independent command as a Brigadier General; but, with proper limitations, I should like to see the Volunteer Retired List open to officers of all ranks.

Respectfully,  
/s/ C. H. Howard





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2/24/1906

*From:* Rep. Amos L. Allen

*To:* Col. C. H. Howard

CHH-268

House of  
Representatives U.S.  
Washington, D.C.

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[Letterhead]

House of Representatives U.S.  
Washington, D.C.,

Feb 24, 1906

My dear Col. Howard

I will now say that it appears the Volunteer retirement Bill will not be favorably acted on. I am sure the feeling in the House would be unfriendly if reported. There is considerable hostile criticism on the retirement of the regular army officers by promoting them to a grade higher than they had reached and then at once retiring.

We retired Capt. Boutelle and Gen Hawley, but it was just before they died, by special acts, but it was considered a bad precedent.

I was in Portland the 12th, Lincoln's birthday and saw Gen Chamberlain who seemed well, though about 75. If you come to Washington anytime, please let me know as I want to see the once "Charlie Howard".

Best wishes.

Sincerely Yours,  
Amos L. Allen

Col. C. H. Howard

[Note: Amos Allen was a Representative to the U.S. Congress from Maine from 1899 until his 1910. He graduated from Bowdoin College in 1860, the year after Charles H. Howard.]

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3/1/1906

*From:* Senator W. B.  
Allison

*To:* General C. H. Howard

CHH-269

United States Senate  
Committee on  
Appropriations  
Washington

1000 Tribune Building  
Chicago, Ills.

---

[Letterhead]

UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

March 1, 1906.

General C. H. Howard,  
1000 Tribune Building,  
Chicago, Ills.,

Dear General Howard:

I have yours of the 27th ult. And note contents. The matter is in the hands of the Military Committee of the Senate, and I will refer your letter to Senator Warren, Chairman, who will have your views before the Committee when the matter comes up for consideration.

Very truly yours,

/s/ W. B. Allison [William Boyd Allison, Senator from Iowa, 1873-1908]

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3/2/1906

*From:* Senator F. E.  
Warren

*To:* Hon. W. B. Allison

CHH-270

United States Senate  
Committee On Military  
Affairs  
Washington

United States Senate  
Washington

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[Letterhead]

UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON MILITARY AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON

Francis E. Warren , Chairman

Nathan B. Scott,	E. W. Pettus,
Joseph B. Foraker,	J. C. S. Blackburn,
Russell A. Alger,	James. P. Taliaferro,
Henry Cabot Lodge,	Murphy J. Foster,
James A. Hemenway,	Lee S. Overman
Morgan G. Bulkeley,	
William Warner,	
Joseph A. Breckons, Clerk	

[Typed]

March 2, 1906,

Hon. W. B. Allison  
United Senate Senate. [sic]

Dear Senator Allison:

I am I in receipt of your favor of 1st instant enclosing letter from General Howard, brother of General O. O. Howard, relating to the volunteer officers' retirement bill.

The letter will be considered in reference to the bill to which it refers.

Very truly yours,

/s/ F. E. Warren

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3/12/1906

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Hon. Amos L. Allen

CHH-271

1000 Tribune Building  
Chicago,

House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

---

[typed copy]

1000 Tribune Building  
Chicago, March 12, 1906

Hon. Amos L. Allen,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Friend Allen:-

I was much pleased to have another letter from you and to have you tell me plainly just what you thought of the prospects of the Volunteer Retirement bill. Some members of the House have expressed themselves much as you do, while quite a number, including the Speaker, have encouraged us to think if the bill were reported favorably from the Committee it would surely pass. There are one or two strong friends of the measure on the committee. Capt. Hull, the chairman, favors an amendment, extending the scope of the bill. Mr. Fletcher of Minnesota is a personal friend of mine, and is fully committed to the policy. I note very carefully what you say as to hostile criticism of the retirements in the Regular Army. I have known instances where an appointment was sought in the Regular Army with that view alone – that is, for the sake of obtaining the retirement. Officers who served with me and were wounded in the same battle, have obtained a life-long retirement pay in that way. Other Regular officers who saw no more service than many of us Volunteers were immediately retired, thirty-five years ago or more, and have all this time been drawing their retirement pay.

I note what you say in regard to Gen. Hawley and Capt. Boutelle. Our thought has been that this general measure would be just, and would avoid those individual bills which are discriminating and positively unjust, as you will readily see.

But the chief ground for presenting such a measure is that it is a settled policy of our country, or ought to be, to keep down the standing army and to depend upon Volunteers in any great emergency. If we are to do this we should do what we can to create a public sentiment favoring Volunteers. As a matter of fact, after all our previous wars, including the Revolution, Volunteer officers were duly recognized with proper compensation. The Civil War Volunteer officers have had absolutely no recognition from the Government. As perhaps I mentioned in my previous letter, the only age pension open to them is that intended particularly for enlisted men, and not exceeding \$12 per month.

I was pleased to hear about your visit to Portland, and especially of my old professor and comrade in the army, Gen. [Joshua Lawrence] Chamberlain. I must think of him, I suppose, as quite an old man at seventy-five, but it will not be so very many years before I will be there myself.

I was pleased to have you call me by my old college name, and I shall certainly look you up the first time I go to Washington.

Very cordially yours,  
[C. H. Howard]

---

3/25/1906

*From:* Green B Raum

*To:* General Nettleton

CHH-273

Washington, D.C.

---

Washington, D.C. Mar 25 1906.

Dear General Nettleton [Alvred Bayard Nettleton]

I have your bulky letter with Records, Gen'l Grants letter &c. Thanks. Gen'l Andrews has sent me a sheet of the Pioneer Press. I send you a copy of a Horrific paragraph in the Editorial Column. I send you in another package a number of my letters to the Comit, in which I make all I can out of the precedent. Gen'l Andrews writes to press that point. Now it seems to me that the lead of the Pioneer Press can be made to do us heaps of good. Please see the right men of the Tribune, Inter Ocean Record Herald, News Journal &c and urge them to come forward to the help of the old generals against the leathargy of Congress.

The 2 houses are so full of RR rates, Statehood & other business that it is hard to get their ear on any subject the old Soldiers are interested in. Gen Kidd of Ionia Mich runs a paper. I have written him urgently sending copy of the Press article & 10 copies of letter. He was a splendid soldier. I think he will respond. I have written Heath of Cent' Waters & Devoe of Kansas City Mo. Glasgow, MacDougall, Peck, Sprague, <Brannan> Coburn and Swift urging them to push the newspapers on the line of the Press item. The death of Mr. Patterson [George Robert Patterson, Senator from Pennsylvania died March 21, 1906] lost us a sturdy friend. Senator Cullom [Shelby Moore Cullom, Senator from Illinois] is back & is with us. I saw him yesterday. He will no doubt influence Hopkins [Albert Jarvis Hopkins, Senator from Illinois] all right. Please push the Chicago papers on the question of the precedent and the justice of our request.

Truly Yours  
Green B Raum

With my letter of Friday I have filed 84 Records, neatly put together in alphabetical order. They constitute a new History of the War from <Philadelphia> to the Grand Review.

I have received 15 records since they are coming in by every mail. Gen'l Block sent his in last evening. He don't want to be left out of a good thing.

Capt Hull is expected back early this week,

Yours truly,  
Green B Raum

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3/25/1906      *From:* O. O. Howard

*To:* President Theodore  
Roosevelt

CHH-272

Washington, D.C.

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Introducing  
General C. H. Howard

Washington D.C.  
Mar. 25th 1906

Dear Mr. President: [Theodore Roosevelt]

You will remember that Congressman Foss [George Edmond Foss, Rep. from Illinois 1895-1918] and I saw you with regard to a consulship for my brother & that you spoke very favorably to us. I asked my brother to come here & expected to go with him to see you – but am called away by an important engagement. Kindly give him an interview & greatly oblige him & me.

With high regard,

Sincerely yours  
O. O. Howard

---

3/27/1906

*From:* A. B. Nettleton

*To:* General Howard

CHH-274

American Rice Cereal  
Co.  
Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]

American Rice Cereal Co.  
Chicago, Ill.

Mar. 27 1906

Dear General Howard:

I send you the most recent budget from Gen. Raum, received this morning. He failed to enclose the Pioneer Press clipping referred to. If convenient please call when next down town and we will confer as to the practicability of further Chicago publicity.

Sincerely yours,

A. B. Nettleton

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6/27/1906

*From:* Green B Raum

*To:* General

CHH-275

Washington, D.C.

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Washington, D.C., June 27, 1906.

Dear General:

This session of Congress will adjourn without passing the Volunteer Retired List Bill. The measure is still pending before the Military Committee of each House. The work of education has gone on steadily with excellent results. We now have strong friends in both Houses.

The most influential men of the Senate are with us. Our bill will pass that body whenever brought to a vote. There are members on both committees, who apprehend unfavorable political effects, however, as a result of the passage of our bill, amongst officers and soldiers of the Civil War who are not included in it. I do not share in this apprehension. My opinion is that the passage of our bill will receive the approval of the rank and file of the volunteers, and also the hearty approval of the public in general.

We have called the attention of Congress to the long continued discrimination of the laws against officers of volunteers. This agitation will in my opinion work a reform. I cannot believe that the American People when enlightened upon this subject will tolerate a continuance of these discriminations. They will approve the present proposition of creating a Volunteer Retired List in honor of the three and a half millions of Volunteers who have defended the Country and the Flag.

I am satisfied that the public will concur in our opinion, that the surviving generals of the Civil War are entitled to a more marked recognition of their services than a pension of \$12. per month at 70 years of age. Further that private bills for particular individuals do not accord with justice and fair dealing; and that Congress, having set the example of retiring certain generals of volunteers of the Civil War should be bound by this action and extend to others the same honorable recognition.

I respectfully urge that there shall be no abatement in our efforts to secure this just legislation. I have every confidence that our bill will pass the next session of Congress. This opinion is founded upon the views of leading men of both Houses of Congress.

I now return to Chicago. My address is 569, 51st Boulevard. If it is the wish of a majority of my Comrades interested in this work, I will return to Washington next December, if my life and health are spared, and work for the passage of our bill.

With my best respects to all, I remain,  
Sincerely,  
Your friend and comrade,

/s/ Green B. Raum



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11/15/1906

*From:* Green B Raum

*To:* General Howard

CHH-276

569 51st Boulevard  
Chicago, Ill.

---

[Typed]

"VOLUNTEER RETIRED LIST"

569 51st Boulevard, Chicago, Ill. November 15, 1906.

Dear General:-

Our comrades are unanimous in the wish that a united effort shall be made to secure the passage of the Volunteer Retired List Bill by the coming session of Congress. The influence of those of our number residing in each State constitute an important factor for success; individual effort will do much but organized effort will doubtless do more.

I suggest that the justice of this measure be immediately brought to the attention of members of both houses of Congress in each State particularly the members of the Committees on military affairs, and that they be urgently requested to aid in the passage of the Bill. Herewith you will find a list of members of the Military Committees before whom our Bill is pending.

We claim that in time of war officers of the same rank, performing the same duties, and incurring the same hazards, should be entitled under equal laws to the same rights, honors and emoluments, whether they belong to the Regular or Volunteer forces.

Regular Armies are maintained for service in times of war; but it was the policy of the National Government to prosecute the war for the Union with Volunteers and not be creating a large regular Army; these Volunteers fought in the greatest war of the ages and preserved the Union.

It was obviously unjust after the Volunteers had performed this momentous service for the country that the Generals of that service should be systematically discriminated against. Under the Act of June 28th, 1866, officers of the Regular Army who had received commissions of higher rank in the Volunteer service were retired with three-quarters pay of the rank of the command in the Volunteer Army; Captains were retired as Major Generals but no volunteer officer who did not hold a commission in the Regular Army was retired, however great his command, however brilliant his service, however serious his disabilities from wounds or otherwise, or however advanced his age.

Under the Act of April 23, 1904, 354 officers who had served with credit during the Civil War and were then on the Retired List were re-retired with the rank and retired pay of one grade above that actually held by them at the time of retirement; 254 of these officers had served in the Volunteer Army of the Civil War and many of them had been retired for thirty years. Thus it is seen the Congress has imputed great merit to Volunteer service when performed by an officer holding a commission in the Regular Army. The only recognition made by General Law for surviving Generals of Volunteers of the Civil War is a pension under the Act of June 27th, 1890, of \$6.00 per month at 62 years of age; \$8.00 per month at 65; \$10.00 per month at 68, and \$12.00 per month 70 years of age.

These discriminations have been brought to the attention of Congress in certain letters, copies of which were forward to our comrades. I am sending you some printed matter to bring this subject again to your notice.

By the Act of March 3rd, 1905, Congress provided for the retirement of General Joseph R. Hawley and Peter J. Osterhaus as Brigadier Generals with three-quarters pay of that rank. These officers were of the Volunteer Army, - they had never been commissioned in the Regular Army, and had been out of the military service for 39 years, but Congress recognizing the fact that the Pension Act of June 27th, 1890, was not an adequate recognition of the military services of these men during the Civil War provided for their retirement. Nothing can be said in abatement of the valuable services of these two officers; but nothing can be said to justify their retirement that is not applicable to the other surviving Generals of the Civil War.

We now ask to be treated equally with these officers without discrimination or favoritism.

The Bill is before Congress: We present what we believe to be a just claim, warranted by precedent. It is, however, of recognition to be granted to these surviving Generals of the great War.

I will be in Washington about December 3rd and will stop at the Ebbitt House.

Very truly yours,

GREEN B. RAUM.

MILITARY COMMITTEE U.S. SENATE

Frances E. Warren, Wyoming.	Nathan B. Scott, W. Va.
Joseph B. Foraker, Ohio.	Russell A. Alger, Mich.
Henry Cabot Lodge, Mass.	James A. Hemenway, Ind.
Morgan G. Bulkeley, Conn.	William Warner, Mo.
Edmund W. Pettus, Ala.	Joseph C. S. Blackburn, Ky.
James P. Taliaferro, Flor.	Murphy J. Foster, La.
Lee S. Overman, N.C.	

MILITARY COMMITTEE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

John A. T. Hull, Iowa.	Beman G. Dawes, Ohio
Richard Wayne Parker, N.J.	William Sulzer, N.Y.
Adin B. Capron, R.I.	James Hay, Va.
George W. Prince, Ill.	James L. Slayden, Texas.
Elias S. Holliday, Ind.	Robert Broussard, La.
H. Olin Young, Mich.	Joshua F. C. Talbott, Md.
James R. Burke, Pa.	Ariosto A. Wiley, Ala.
Julius Kahn, Cal.	Bird S. McGuire, Okla.
Loren Fletcher, Minn.	James M. Miller, Kan.

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2/18/1907

*From:* Senator E J Burkett

*To:* Col. G. R. Rathbun

CHH-278

United States Senate  
Committee on Pacific  
Railroads  
Washington

512 Brown Block  
Omaha, Neb.

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[Letterhead]

United States Senate  
Committee on Pacific Railroads  
Mr. Burkett, Chairman  
Mr. Dolliver.      Mr. Morgan.  
Mr. Frye.          Mr. Taliaferro.  
Mr. Long.          Mr. McCreary.  
Mr. Latimer.  
Geo. E. Tobey, Clerk.

[Typed]

Washington, February 18, 1907.

Col. G. R. Rathbun  
512 Brown Block  
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Sir:-

I have your letter of the 12th instant, jointing signed with General Hopper, Division Commander, and I thank you for sending me this expression of opinion of the Nebraska Division, U. V. U.

As I have just written General Hopper, I shall introduce this letter in the Senate today and have it referred to the Committee in charge of this subject and give it attention when it comes up for action.

Yours truly

/s/ E J Burkett [Senator from Nebraska]

---

2/18/1907

*From:* Rep. George W.  
Norris

*To:* Maj. Gen. J. Francis  
Hopper

CHH-281

House of  
Representatives,  
Committee on Public  
Buildings and Grounds,  
Washington, D.C.

---

Omaha, Nebr.

[Letterhead]

Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds  
House of Representatives U.S.  
Washington, D.C.  
Fifty-Ninth Congress  
Richard Bartholdt, Mo., Chairman  
Edwin C. Burleigh, Me.  
Benjamin F. Howell, N.J.  
James P. Conner, Iowa.  
Eben W. Martin, S. Dak.  
Edwards S. Minor, Wis.  
William A. Rodenberg, Ill.  
George W. Norris, Nebr.  
Frederick Landis, Ind.  
John E. Andrus, N.Y.  
John H. Bankhead, Ala.  
William G. Brantley, Ga.  
Charles R. Thomas, N.C.  
Morris Sheppard, Tex.  
Joseph T. Johnson, S.C.  
Eaton J. Bowers, Miss.  
Edward E. Miller, Clerk

[Typed]

Washington, D.C.  
February 18, 1907.

Maj. Gen. J. Francis Hopper,  
Omaha, Nebraska

My dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor dated February 15, 1907, in which you advise me as to the views of the Division Officers of the Union Veteran's Union, Division of Nebraska, relative to H. R. 24544. I am very glad indeed to know the wishes of your Officers regarding this matter and wish to assure you that same shall receive my best consideration. I shall also take the liberty of conveying the contents of your letter to the Committee charged with the consideration of the bill in question.

With the kindest regards, I remain,

Very truly yours,

/s/ G. W. Norris

[Note: the letterhead indicates the 59th Congress, whereas from the date it should have been the 60th Congress. Rep. Norris was listed on the letterhead and is just using the old stationery.]

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2/18/1907

*From:* Rep. E. H. Hinshaw

*To:* General J. Francis  
Hopper

CHH-279

Committee on The  
Merchant Marine and  
Fisheries  
House of  
Representatives U.S.,  
Washington, D.C.

Omaha, Nebraska

---

[Letterhead]

Committee on The Merchant Marine and Fisheries  
House of Representatives U.S.,  
Washington, D.C.,  
Fifty-Eighth Congress  
Charles H. Grosvenor, Chairman.

Edward S. Minor.	Benjamin R. Birdsall.
William S. Greene.	William W. Wilson.
Fred C. Stevens.	Thomas Spight.
Joseph W. Fordney.	John H. Small.
Frank C. Wachter.	Robert W. Davis.
Charles E. Littlefield.	Allan L. McDermott.
William E. Humphrey.	Alfred Lucking.
William H. Flack.	Joseph A. Goulden.

[Typed]

Feb. 18, 1907.

General J. Francis Hopper  
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear sir:-

I have your letter concerning placing the officers of the Civil War on the retired list.

I shall be glad to look into the matter carefully and see what is to be done. I will do the best I can for the officers.

With best regards, I am,

Yours very truly,  
/s/ E. H. Hinshaw [Representative from Nebraska]

[Note: the letterhead indicates the 58th Congress, whereas from the date it should have been the 60th Congress. Rep. Hinshaw is not listed on the letterhead, but I don't know if he was on the committee for the 60th Congress and is just using the old stationery.]

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2/18/1907

*From:* Senator E J Burkett

*To:* Maj. Gen. J. Francis  
Hopper

CHH-277

United States Senate  
Committee on Pacific  
Railroads  
Washington

Division Commander, U.V.U.  
512 Brown Block  
Omaha, Neb.

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[Letterhead]

United States Senate  
Committee on Pacific Railroads  
Mr. Burkett, Chairman  
Mr. Dolliver.      Mr. Morgan.  
Mr. Frye.          Mr. Taliaferro.  
Mr. Long.          Mr. McCreary.  
Mr. Latimer.  
Geo. E. Tobey, Clerk.

[Typed]

Washington, February 18, 1907.

Maj. Gen. J. Francis Hopper,  
Division Commander, U.V.U.  
512 Brown Block  
Omaha, Neb.

Dear Sir:-

I have yours of the 15th instant informing me of the action of the Division Officers of the U. V. U. of Nebraska endorsing H. R. 24544.

I thank you for writing me, and I think I shall take the liberty of introducing your letter into the Senate and having it referred to the Committee in charge of this matter. Assuring you that it shall have my earnest attention when it comes up for action, I am,

Yours truly

/s/ E J Burkett [Senator from Nebraska]

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2/18/1907

*From:* Rep Ernest M.  
Pollard

*To:* J. Francis Hopper

CHH-280

House of  
Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

Omaha, Nebr.

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[Letterhead]

House of Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.  
Ernest M. Pollard  
Nehawka, Nebraska

[Typed]

Feb. 18, 1907.

Mr. J. Francis Hopper,  
Omaha, Nebr.

My dear Sir:

Your favor of recent date with enclosure is received. In reply will say that I will look into this measure and will give it very careful consideration when it comes before the House. From the action taken by your Division of the Union Vetran's [sic] Union I have no doubt but what it is a worthy bill.

Thanking you for your favor, I remain,

Very truly yours,

/s/ Ernest M Pollard

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2/19/1907

*From:* Rep. M. P. Kinkaid

*To:* J. Francis Hopper, Div.  
Com.

CHH-282

House of  
Representatives,  
Washington, D.C.

Omaha, Nebr.

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[Letterhead]

House of Representatives U.S.  
M. P. Kinkaid,  
Sixth District, Nebraska.

[Typed]

Washington, D.C., Feb. 19, 1907.

J. Francis Hopper, Div. Com.,  
Omaha, Nebraska

Dear Sir:

Your esteemed favor of the 15th instant, endorsing H. R. 24544, relative to placing the surviving officers of the U. S. Volunteer Army of the Civil War on the retired list, etc. has been received and its contents noted. I am pleased to inform you that I am in sympathy with the bill, and it shall receive my hearty support.

I remain,

Very respectfully yours,

/s/ M. P. Kinkaid [Moses Pierce Kinkaid]



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5/26/1907

*From:* O O Howard

*To:* Gen. C. H. Howard

CHH-283

Burlington, VT

Glencoe  
Illinois

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Home Sunday May 26, 1907  
26 Summit St.  
Burlington Vt.

Dear Brother:

Yes I went to see Mr [Andrew] Carnegie. He was too ill to see anybody. Mr [James] Bertram (his Secretary) said that he was not going to interest himself in the delegates at all, so I had to give up that tack.

I will take your letter with me to New York and see what our publishers think about the <revisiting> of my "Auto-Biography". No. No. I would be foolish, just to praise my work or anybody's.

[Rufus] Bullock's death came suddenly at last. He was 10 years my senior. Dr. Newman gave him a high encomium for his faithful life. Then McClellan's address was only very personal relations. I put his political difference very plainly into words. His wife (deaf as a stone) sat near me but left before my address. Mayor [George B.] McClellan [Jr.] rec'd my Ms. & took it to her.

If Katy hasn't "any good motive" she is in a big company. What then will become of us all. Our Lord does not bother about our sins; when He pardons, He pardons. He is such a Big Saviour, that I fancy we can trust him in all of it. Lizzie is a little better - sits up every day, talking little & waits & waits. We hope she will get stronger & come downstairs by & by.

I have 9 engagements - tomorrow at Northfield Mass. Wednesday Boston (the Gilman School Commencement <Custodians> of <Trust>) New York (30th); Borden Sunday N.Y. Friday (Prof. Gregory Col'd Agricultrual College) the 31st; To West Point with James' family [Otis' son] Sat. & Sunday (the 1st & 2nd June) & June 4th Hildegard's [James' daughter] Commenc; June 6 - Address at New Britain Conn.; June 8 <Reus's> Brother Whightman's marriage Plainfield N.J. Shall see Lawrence (?) [Lawrence Riggs Howard was Charles' son and was living in Plainfield] June 9th speak at Scarsdale (Harlem R.R.) N.Y. Dr Stookberry meets me in New York &c &c.

Give love to Katy & all around you. Do not argue with folks. Happy faces are good remedies for the "blues".

All join in love. Aff. your brother

Otis

[Envelope]  
Gen. C. H. Howard  
Glencoe  
Illinois

[Postmark]  
Burlington, VT. May 27, 1907, 7 AM

[Written faintly on the envelope]  
Preserve

11/22/1907

*From:* J Francis Hopper

*To:* Gen. Charles H. Howard

CHH-284

Headquarters Union  
Veterans Union  
Division of Nebraska  
512 Brown Block  
Omaha, Nebraska

Chicago, Ill.

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[Letterhead]

Headquarters Union Veterans Union

Division of Nebraska

512 Brown Block

Maj Gen J Francis Hopper, Division Commander

Brig Gen B. G. McKenzie, Brigade Commander

Col G. R. Rathbun, Asst. Adjutant General

Omaha Nebraska, Nov 22, 1907

Gen. Charles H. Howard,  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir:

When the first information was sent to me last January in regard to House Roll #24544 introduced by Mr. Dawes of Ohio, in regard to placing all surviving volunteer officers of the Union Army on the retired list, I called a special meeting of the division officers of the Union Veterans Union, Division of Nebraska, and we formulated a letter directed to members of Congress from Nebraska, and also to J. A. T. Hull, Chairman House Committee on Military Affairs.

I am enclosing you the replies I received from our Congressional delegation and assure you as far as the Union Veterans Union of this state is concerned, we are doing everything possible in influencing friends in regard to the passage of this bill.

I expect to call a meeting of the state officers in the near future, in order to collect funds for the use of the finance committee. I would also state here, that the great majority of the boys here are poor and I cannot well say what amount may be collected, but whatever it is I will forward same to you in the near future.

Trusting that you will use every endeavor to have this bill passed, I remain,

Yours and F.C.&L.

/s/ J Francis Hopper

Division Commander

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2/14/1908

*From:* W. B. Lloyd

*To:* O. McG. Howard

CHH-285

Glenoak  
Fruit Farm and Poultry  
Yards  
Kinmundy, Illinois

Chicago

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[Letterhead]

Glenoak  
Fruit Farm and Poultry Yards  
Kinmundy, Illinois  
W.B. Lloyd  
Geo. T. Lloyd

Feb 14, 1908

O. McG. Howard  
Chicago:

Dear Mc:

I had already learned thru my mother some particulars of your father's going before getting your note.

Words at best are poor conveyors of sympathy and for one like me they fail utterly. In the matter of something for a memorial volume let me off with just a few words and should they be omitted in the make up of the book tis well.

Thy Friend,  
W. B. Lloyd

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1/26/1910

*From:* Katharine F. Howard

*To:* Mr. [George T.] Little

CHH-286

Fair Oaks  
Glencoe, Ill.

[Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Me]

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[Letterhead]  
Fair Oaks

Glencoe, Ill.  
Jan 26/10

Dear Mr. [George T] Little  
[Bowdoin College  
Brunswick, Maine]

I am enclosing herewith the draft of the biographical sketch of my husband that you desired, in which I have made corrections. Also the Loyal Legion Memorial and extracts from one of several appreciative addresses made at the memorial service. These will enable you to suggest somewhat of the affection and esteem which were accorded him though I realize that the notice must be brief. Thanking you for your endeavors, to put on record for his Alma Mater a lasting appreciation of a valued life.

Sincerely yrs.  
Katharine F. Howard

