Lewisville. June 1st 1857.

Monday Evening. ½ past eight.

Dearest.

No letter came for me to-night. how much I do hope one will come to-morrow. then it will be one week since I received the last written just before starting for Fort Atkyns. I have put my wrapper in good order since Guy went to sleep, and as I am not sleepy will add a little more to what I wrote you last evening. I hope Father won't make a long visit at Turner, for I get so tired walking about with Guy. but I assure you he likes "Ma-my" to wait on him. he has taken a great fancy to see books lately and will sit a long-long time to have me explain pictures to him. when he sees quite a number of the same things on one page, he will say "many, many" like "many many kiddies", "many many ~~many~~ uncle" and it is the same with his play things. and to-day he saw the alphabet, and he exclaimed "many many a. b." Very wise child that. I left this to write a letter

to Mrs Clark - setting no time for her to come in particular, but I thought I would write to let her know I depended on having her with me.

Tuesday Morning. I cannot write much this morn for Guy is full of play, and "Ma-ma" comes pretty often. I do not expect Mother to return today because it is not pleasant enough to ride. I hope you are at Tampa by this time, it is three weeks to day since you went away. I imagine you not on duty and not wholly for pleasure, although you do not say so. I look for a letter every mail. Rowland has letters ready so I will not write more this time.

Yours affectionately, Lizzie

Mrs Hanson
Care Genl Gardner
Near
Tampa
Flor

Springfield (Ot.) June 6 1857.

My dear Howard.

When Henry and I were at your place last fall, you said you should probably go to Maine this summer and you gave me some encouragement you would come this way and call on us. On my return I told my wife and daughter what it and it has frequently been the subject of conversation in our family since. I now renew that invitation to you and Mrs. Howard and such of your family as may accompany you. My wife and daughter are somewhat importunate that I thus write reminding you of your partial engagement and pressing the invitation – If you do come I will write directing the station and route. My wife you know reckons you among her acquaintances and Mrs. H also through you – and that acquaintance was between us through a tender tie that binds us most closely to a son and brother – Henry is at Fort Dallas, Florida, and thinks – that is the place of his quarters at present – Wife & Emily wish to be commended to Mrs Howard

Your friends &c. Henry Clopson

me. I am surprised at the power it gives me. The young men who could floor me in speculation - Christ helps me to convince them - for God knows I am in earnest. Howland understood me well when he wrote that letter - or Christ put that in his heart, that made him touch the rightly spring. I have often longed to be an honest man & I am now convinced with the same helper, that is here now I can do my fellow men some good. I didn't weep & cry & moan & yet my joy is great. I don't see how I could have been so blind so torpid as not to have yielded to the Beautiful Being that has been beckoning so long. If you don't come on, & hand in hand & heart in heart with the husband you love, give your self up wholly & unreservedly to Christ - Why I should fear our quiet would be broken up, for I shall be pestering you to death. I won't be jealous of Him, for he will make my sweet wife even lovely - the dew of perpetual youth will be in her soul & exhibit itself in her life - Ponder these things my Lizzie - Remember that we will be held accountable to God for our lovely boy - The present, that you gave me - the 16th Dec. /55 has helped me along - has touched my emotional being & my moral - O My dear Saviour, grant thy comfort to Lizzie in her coming & present trial - I do want to see you & mother & Howland & Charlie & Tellie & father & Mr Mother - all - I should like to talk to you & pray with you now. I am not now ashamed of my beloved, more than I am of you or Guy - I can take you all into any circle fit for you to go into. I have so much that I could tell you. Some young men have talked with me - now they come to me for comfort, which I myself never could give them - how a mother over the body of her deceased boy, took me by the hand & said in all her anguish of heart - Tete Lound you I know you. you are St. Howard - He picked you out from all the others - I told her as she bent her heart with-out a tear - God is good - Love Christ more & you won't love him less - He has gone & you will surely go to see him - Now think of these things isn't God good to me - & to your family? -

I hope you will be already able to rejoice with me when this reaches you - God bless my wife & child, Otis -

My own dearest wife

This after four o'clock I am sorry to say and I haven't begun or am just beginning to write you. If I thought you would feel better for me to write about the ordinary topics of the day I would willingly do so, and leave alone themes that might not suit you. for I am willing to trust you in God's hands. But out of the fullness of the heart the mouth speaketh, and I shall speak more freely & easily & confidingly & lovingly if I let my mind take its course; and the crisis that draws nigh for my darling wife & may even now be taking place, must be sinking deep into your heart, and you need my most cordial sympathy. There is now a new well spring within me, a joy, a peace & a trusting spirit that I long for you to partake of. I will not cry out against the past & say I have never been sincere with you. but I will say that present enjoyment tinges all things with brightness - I have had the reward of many a generous impulse, of many a self-sacrificing action, but never equal to this that makes my spirit beam with sweetness. And it is not I, it is not of me. Say not, Oh! how good, but Oh! how good Christ is to give your husband this Light in

his heart. that lightens every face, that makes a perpetual smile play on his face & makes him eagerly desire the good of every creature. You love me. You say you desire nothing more than my happiness, sometimes, & I do not doubt it. My sweet Lizzie, then, you must now say how kind, how good, above all measure is He that will make him so happy, when he is so much alone, when he sinks a lonely pillow for, far away. When going to breakfast this morning I thought of the prayers that have been offered for me. How my mother had pleaded along alone & prayed for me again & again & have cold & distant I had been, how my grandmother Otis when last we parted threw her arms around my neck and wept over me & said, Oh! Otis, I wish you loved your Saviour, the pearly gates were open & I cried, but there was not pain or grief even then, for I thought how Mother will rejoice & have the Spirit of her that has gone, if she can see me, then, how watching me will rejoice, that I am no longer groping but that all is as light as day. An oath from another wounds me now, a sneer grieves me, but God, who through the Saviour, has put this Spirit of love here in my heart, gives me continually strength to bear. All this gladness is perfectly inexplicable to one who has not had it; it was to me a week ago and had been all my life - and so I thought I would make a trial & see if so many witnesses were lying or were deceived by some delusion fancy. & the great I, who have boasted of my practical sense, have got all wrapt up in the "Delusion" and find a beauty & a real comfort in it that will make me hug it to my breast till the day I die. If I am tempted sorely & lose this light: I shall know that there is such a thing. Provided we were all to be happy after death. of which I doubt on sufficient evidence to convince me. This hour of present & continuous enjoyment makes a Heaven on Earth. And you & my darling wife will, if we get it now, keep growing more & more into it from the period of starting onward, forever. Hence we shall have higher appreciation & never more love it may be than if we had left unbelieved all the capabilities of the Soul, till very late in life. & if possible according to Scripture, till after death. I will not tell you anything of doctrines, I don't know myself in these matters; but there are some things plain to me as the light of day. Christ blots out all wrong things done, that have seared the soul. When I believe it, He does it for me. When Rowland believed it, He did it for him. When you trust Him he does it for you. A little Dove, he will send to take up a continuous residence, if you want it. But I assure you its plumage must be bright to reflect so much light into you & through you. So that you cant help crying out, "One thing I do know that whereas I was blind now I see". I couldn't love Christ before, you couldn't; you said as much long ago when you said you were not worthy to join the Church. Now as true as I am Otis Howard & married Lizzie Waite so sure I am that I love Christ, & the Holy Spirit makes

Henry, Illinois. June 4th, 1857.

My Dear Old Chum,

Lieutenant Oliver Otis Howard
Ordnance Dept.
West Troy
N. Y.

Greeting, Chum, and know ye, i.e. you & yours, that in about a month from now I expect to be married & to go East.

Now Chum, if you are going to be at home in the early part of July or the first of August & want to see this individual & wife & sister just say so & will be pretty sure to call on you one way.

You didn't answer my last letter congratulating you on your paternity but I don't place much significance on this fact, inasmuch as I don't answer some of my letters for a year & I guess it hasn't been quite a year since I wrote you.

According to the best of my recollection I rollied you somewhat but didn't say anything you need have taken in dudgeon from me. I don't believe you are mad with me but if you are just say so & I'll believe so & not tell then. I saw both Drwett & Goodwin last week – both located in Chicago. Sem. Ath. at Dixon Ills. & Stinson in Mis. My sister is teacher in the North Ills. Institute here. John A. P. has

Lieutenant Oliver Otis Howard
West Point
Maine

NEW YORK
JUN 1857

ILLINOIS
JUN 1857

Paid

just gone to Omaha, Nebraska. Blackstone is at Sacon in Hardware business & half of Livermore is out here somewhere. It is just getting to be decent weather. It has been very cold & backward, very. She that was Miss Clark is married to a Mr Scott, a widower of 40 with 2 children & gone on a sea voyage. Had a letter from Jack the other day, from Boothbay. Miss H. M. Knight wrote me some 2 weeks since, from White Springs Florida. Perry flourishes in religious peace & happiness. I wish we could say as much, at Brattleboro Mass. Do you know anything about anybody else of '50 or our friends? Where & how is Rowland - & how is Oliver & Lizzie and my quondom mother Mrs Waite. Give them all Peleg's love & assure them of his affectionate remembrance. I hope Lizzies & her mother's health is good. Does Mrs W. live with you now? My health is very good & the blues are almost among the things that were with me. I am doing a very good business & lead a very happy life. I saw a man on the cars the other day whom I had to go back to take a nearer view of to see if it was not yourself. I should really like to see you there & chat with you one day & review the olden recollections of the days gone by.

I would give a dollar for 2 cigars & a seat on the grass with you for an hour or two this warm June morning. I have several letters more to write before the mail closes & cant prolongate this much more but I believe I have said nearly all that is essential. My regard for you is undiminished & the flight of years & the lapse of time will not clear or diminish it. You will never grow out of my remembrance & regard & no one out of your own family will be more glad of your success than your old Chum P. S. P. How long will you probably remain at your present quarters?

Does life go happily with you now? or closing anxieties gather round the marriage life?

Do you begin to feel anxious for an heir or has not that feeling begun to be cherished? What his name?

Give my love to Mrs W. & believe me as ever

Your friend & Chum

Peleg.

Boston, etc. June 4th 1863.

What shall I say to you tonight dearest Ettie, I long for & hear the clock striking nine. I laid down with Guy when I put him to bed and did not get up as soon as he went to sleep. I have not yet received a letter from you, but think I must to morrow when I mail this. I am getting so down hearted about myself, dearest Ettie, and am losing all my courage just when I shall most need it. What shall I do? It is no use to wish you were here, or anything else that cannot be, and I do try to reason everyday with myself, that all will be well in the end. But it is hard to look bravely at what must take place before I can say all is over. Your letters have been such a comfort to me, and since I have been without them I have lost courage every day. If I could be assured of your good health it would do me as much good as anything I know of. I dont believe you will the second time say you must

my spoons to put a pencil in each. He gets a little better near sometimes to see the R's "Mamma" is making. He wants to help write and I hear (says "No, no") and have given him a pencil and paper but he would prefer more. Our friends have gone and I am about to finish my letter. It is after tea and Willie goes to the P.O. soon. I have been out walking with Guy this afternoon. I like to go with him when I am able it pleases him so much to walk a short distance by himself and if I follow closely he will call "Mamma" and put out his hand for me. Would you not like to see him? Rowland went to Hallowell with Mr Martin. I think now I shall write to him to bring Mr Clark here next week, perhaps not till week after. John Harrison and wife return from China to morrow, where they have been absending two weeks. I have heard good news from Saint Paul. She was confined the 6th of May, at Nassau a son (Aunt Martha), the latter wished me to give her love to you. We lately received a letter from Mr Nicholas they are at Richmond, Ind. Adaline was married at Buffalo, on their way to their new residence

Mr & Mrs Nicholas
Richmond
Wayne Co
Indiana

go away without your little family. But, dearest, I must not write thus to you so far away, and will leave it till morning. After a good rest I hope to gain fortitude and feel more hopeful. Friday Morning

Dearest Otis: I could not write last evening for I was very sad, and could see no sunshine in the future for me. So I put up my writing and took my Bible, and after reading the Psalms 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. I felt as if I had gained new life and went to sleep feeling very happy. I do not appreciate enough the blessing in having a Father to flee to in time of sorrow and trials. I am now writing just before dinner Guy is sleeping in my bed sweetly as if nothing could be troubling his little mind. Amelia Evangeline and Aunt Martha are here spending the day, and I take the time to write while she is helping Mother get dinner, and also be with Guy while he sleeps. My Mother came back from Turner Wednesday in the cars, at half past eleven. She took dinner at Miss Lothrop's and William Henry brought her here about two o'clock in the afternoon. She is not sick but is not as well as I could wish at this time. I spoke of Mother's getting dinner herself. Bessie, the girl, went away yesterday and I dont think she will come back here to work. She has not seemed to please Mother in doing the work and I guess she was not very well contented. It is very apparent with the girls that one gets in the country to help them, they expect a great deal of attention and think they must do just as their mistress does and work only when they do. But this, Otis, is a hard place for a girl to work. I am sorry to say it but Mother does not do as she did a few years ago, and keeps a girl at work all the afternoon as well as forenoon, and that is what a girl would dislike as much as anything. I regret that we are here to add to the work, for your Mother could get along very well alone with only herself, Col S. and Guy, but when one gets into trouble they (one of my idioms) must get out the best way they can. I have no one to talk with save Mother but my own counsel, but as soon as we can I feel that we must go away from here. I shall make myself as happy as possible during the time I shall be obliged to remain, and do the best I can everyway. I wish you could see Guy now. He is standing in a chair by the table and next to the window by my right hand, has my work-basket, and is selecting out

shrink. But Christ has said, "The bruised reed shall he not break, the smoking flax shall he not quench till he send forth judgment to victory." I am rejoiced to find that you are renewing the past, but say not "may a new course & better blot out the errors of the past" for it cannot. No more than soap will take out the blots from this white paper — "The blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." My dear Saviour, forgives us, as a good father would forgive his son, and we must believe this, else the happy feelings will not come in the forever ~~over~~, more than they would in the letter if the Son persisted in believing that his father had not forgiven him. Christ blots out the past, puts the Holy Spirit in your spirit, which makes you love him. All you have to do is to be sincere, ask ~~him~~ & believe him implicitly. Don't think of creeds or Christians. But get the Holy Spirit in the heart & then I can trust you in any part of the Bible. Would God I could press you in my arms & explain it all to you as my dear Saviour helps me explain it to my associates. I hope if God has opened your life & you are able to think, a little prayer will go up to God from your soul, call in earnest, "Oh, my dear Saviour, thou hast forgiven me everything. Give me the Holy Spirit in my heart to work in them a complete change". Don't I love you now? More than I ever could before for I was not half the man that my Heavenly Father is making of me. Kiss Mama, Guy. — Oh! for "the" news — Give my love to all — Your affectionate husband. Otis

So I am very anxious to receive a letter from you. Shall be very glad for one. Shall be very glad to hear from you & ~~they~~ I shall be anxious until I receive another letter from you. Tell Mr. Jackson I have written home & engaged in the work of my Master. I feel that I am engaged in the work of my Master. Remember me to your Father & Mother & Sister. Tell them I shall write to them soon — and Christ bless you —

Wife.

Ordnance Depot
Fort Brooke Fla
June 7. 1857.

I received one single letter by yesterday evenings mail and that was from you. You say by the time you get one answer from me to this letter, it will all be over, and you pray God all will be well. I will now add mine in full earnestness to that prayer, and say, "not as I will but as Thou wilt". Warren came in by Wednesday stage and stayed here till last night, or rather till this morning for the boat left about daylight for Fort Myers via Manatee. Warren has been with me most of the time. God enabled me to tell him of my beautiful experience of his goodness, a few days before, and to reason with him on the subject of Experimental religion. He was here one day about 12. My rule is to read & pray at that time. I asked him if he had any objection to my following my rule, he said no, and I read & prayed as earnestly as Christ assisted me to do. We visited all the officers families together, & last night I went with him to see Mr McKay's family in town. He has left many things with me & some money to send to his mother as soon as I can obtain a Check, which I shall try to do as soon as Major Seward returns. The Fashion

came back from New Orleans, coming yesterday - accompanied by another Steamer "the America" I believe. She brought back Mrs Hazzard to her waiting husband & the important news that the 5th Infy would be moved to Jefferson Barracks immediately all, but Colonel Loomis, who is still in command of the Department of Florida. These troops, so says the order, are to be replaced by Florida Mounted Volunteers. I can't tell whether I will be kept here or not, but presume I will not get off very soon. It will be some three months before the requisite number of Volunteers can be mustered. I long to visit you now I want to tell you face to face & heart to heart what my present enjoyments is and how really I sympathize with you. Warren says Guy has a finer head than his father and dont you hope God has given him many talents and will make him an intelligent instrument to do his will & win many souls into the fold of the Saviour. Oh! my darling, great is the trust imposed in us and faithfully & prayerfully must we carry it out. I have a class at the Sabbath School of intelligent little boys, but lately I was asked to hear the Bible Class, and did so. There were but two members of it but we had a pleasant hours conversation on the Scriptures. Mr Hart has gone to Key West & left his wife, a little woman of about your size. I hope you are not quite so anxious to see your husband back as she. She has no little pledge to love and kiss while her husband is away. They are going to the north soon after his return & some think they shall visit Portland. She was born in New Jersey. I talked with her about those things that are uppermost in my heart this morning. The love I bear my Saviour, she talked freely. seems to be waiting for her husband before she passes "the pearly". If there is a little girl at home when this comes, remember that Amy, Margaret or Laura are interesting names. Warren will go to Ft McCrae via Fort Myers, but his company will not remain there long. Since the 5th Infantry are leaving. He is enjoying excellent health and I was happy to compliment him for the past, in however slight a measure. The officers appear to like him much & the ladies must admit he is a fine looking man. On Thursday evening Mr Mack & Warren were here, I got excused and went to see Capt Lisby's family, who lost their son by being accidentally shot. I succeeded in diverting their minds to other objects & talked with the Captain & Mrs Lisby till quite late. Then they invited me in & asked me to read & pray. I read the last chapter in Revelations & a portion of a Psalm and then the Holy Spirit helped me to pray for them. They seemed grateful, their grief was subdued & they are looking to a happy meeting above. Mrs Lisby loved to talk me about her dear & beautiful boy. She expects to meet him. Were it not for the Religion of Christ, I believe she would have died in despair, so mighty & sudden was the

Leeds. Ala. June 7. 1857.

My dearest Husband

I was very happy last evening to get letters from you. I received the one you wrote while at Fort Myers and the one written the next day after your return to Tampa. I am very glad you took the trip now that you have got safely back to the place I feel to be the most homelike, and you say your health is very good. I have feared you were not at all well and think I may have written as in former letters. I have just finished a letter to Miss Clara since dinner and shall send William with the horse and wagon for her next Thursday. She wrote me last week to know when I should want her, and as she to be all ready when I sent. I am not well at all today, but hope to be well by the time she shall get here. I am keeping as quiet as possible to day and will not try to write you a long letter although there is much, so much I would like to tell you and say to you, dearest. I am hopeful now

Monday Evening June 8th

I am as well as usual to day, better than yesterday and Guy is well, and all the rest but Mother is not very well, although she keeps about all the time. John Harrison and Wife are at Uriah Evans just returned from a Cruise where they spend the last two weeks. I think of you dearest a great deal now, but do not expect to see you as soon as I did some time ago. I must close on your letter a while longer. As ever yours

Lizzie

Mother has quite a variety of flowers in her garden now.

Mrs Clemens
Member of Congress
Eaton Ala

and trust all will be well in the end. My room looks quite like our home since I have got my carpet down. I wanted your Mother to take care of it as it was beginning to show the wear and staying in the room and using it as much as we should have done this Summer would wear it out a great deal than I would be willing to do when I could just as well have my own on the floor. Guy's shell "papa" cut him is on the fire frame, and looks very pretty there. I have had the book-case taken away to give me more room. I keep my writing-desk on the bureau (a rather queer room, were ours) my port-folio lying on top, Guy's box of blocks on one side and books on the other. If I am well in morrow I shall have all my things arranged very convenient. We did not get as much done last week as we wished we had some company and yesterday I had the sick head-ache what I used to be troubled with, but have not had a sick head-ache before for five years. I am always blind and faint at the same time. and I presume why I do not feel well to-day, is the effects of yesterday's head-ache. Guy has been very happy all day. the Mother and myself kept house while Col. Slaven and Mother were gone to church: they returned about half past three o'clock. We had dinner soon after, and I am now writing at half past six. It has been a beautiful day. I sat in the front door while Guy and 'nannie' were in the garden this afternoon. Mother heard when she was at Dinner that Peleg was soon to be married and coming to New Hampshire to visit her friends then coming to Maine to visit his Father's family. Elise Ann is somewhere near him teaching. John has gone to Bangor. I left my writing to give Guy his supper and now he and Mother have gone to bed. I must go down for the clock just struck nine. I feel better than I did this morning and hope to have a good rest. Do not be anxious about me dearest. I have courage. I shall not expect you to come to Maine very soon. I reckon I shall first come to you. Now, good night. God be with us, and bless us. Ever your own true

Wife. Lizzie Howard.

Salvage Depot
Brooke Fla.
June 9th 1857.

My dearest Wife,

You will be reading this letter about the 20th inst. and how can I write you with so much uncertainty tugging at my heart. Will a bright smile play over your face & will you say Otis all gently as you seemed to me to do, a week ago last saturday night, just after I lay my head on a lonely pillow, & not lonely either for my dear Saviour had just before let me know that He too was there. Oh! guess one again that gently, my love. Say "Otis." I am safe and I thank my Redeemer for his goodness. My pathway is now truly spread with flowers. Come home, my husband and I will present you with one in the bud, one that will blossom in time & not fade in Eternity." There is now indeed something to live for, a great work to do, and it is not for a party, a dance, a dress, a frolick, an excursion, but to do the Will of Him, who upholdeth the Earth, who is present in every part of the Universe, who maketh the green herbs grow, sending us rain & every conceivable blessing. In wickedness, he veileth His face from us, in faith & Love, he comes very near to us and brightens the face of the Earth & Sky. He gives the heart joy & peace. He strengthens the mind while he softens the Soul and prepares us for His work here

I shall send Mrs Luther her money as soon as I can get a check for it.

My dearest I confer
Know it was
needful with your
Wife, my mamma
Lizzy is sick
my remarks
Love, I commit
you & the little
ones to my
heavenly Redeemer.
Your mother
Otis

Write him for a lifetime of blessings - I

Write him for a lifetime of blessings - I

I pay 15 for Mary
from noon to afternoon
school & 7 for
the private school
in the morning
after

bright light of day. I know that He cleanseth me from all sin day by day - If this is so, I am indeed blessed and I can say from my inmost heart, Oh, how good thou art, My Heavenly Father - I do not deserve this rich cup of blessings - I deserve nothing, for I have constantly turned my back away - But My Saviour had mercy on me. He plucks my feet from the mire & places them on the rock - I can lay on to dear him - I ask, and he gives till my happiness is complete. ~~How~~ It is so sweet to meet you all more. My love for you is purer, better, greater - & God is good - It is strange how it unties the sensibilities and makes the heart expand to admit the kindly visitor - My men have promised to come in for reading & prayers in the morning & seemed glad to do so - I was called upon to speak & pray at the prayer-meeting last night - Colonel Sumnis conducted the meeting at the Methodist Church. Dont laugh at any religion, there is but one in reality & that is faith in Christ - Without Him you are nothing - If you die without Him & dont love Him or trust Him, how can you be happy? I dont know. He dont force you to love Him - However, this may be, it is a duty & a privilege to have Him smile upon you in this life - Once get the Sight in your heart & you will not easily let it go - I want to write to Mother & tell her so much, but I have denied myself this pleasure, to write to Chas Mullikin St. Stay Hand and Delia - Her turn should have come, but it seemed it was well with her - My love to both mothers, father & all - Tell father I pray for him & he must bow his knee before his God - &

below. Sympathy for suffering comes forth fresh & hearty. You can soothe the passions while you whisper, God is love. You can break down despair & dissipate gloom, by pointing to the Saviour. Do you think me changed? And wonder if I am absent-minded, sombre & cold. Think not so. I am cheerful. I am happy, truly happy. My spirits never have had more elasticity, my mind has never had a wider grasp. While I am humiliative in view of a Being so great, so just & good, I cannot help rejoicing that He has so honored me, that He has granted me such a big brain. Warren left last sunday morning. He is stationed at Fort Myers. His company from Fort McRae will join him there. He is much pleased with the kind treatment he receives at the hands of the officers. He enclosed a letter to his mother for me to mail tonight. Two companies of the 5th Infantry have arrived here & will go by the first mail steamer to New Orleans. The rest of the regiment will concentrate at Santa Rosa & take the steamers Fashion & America for the same destination. Officers & men are glad to go out of Florida, where they think they have very little to compensate them for hard labor. Colonel Sumner told me this morning, that he should take me with him to Fort Meyers. I think I may have to go still farther up the Caloosahatchee to Fort Deynaud & inspect some arms & accoutrements there, and if Major Page does not go I shall have to act as Adjutant to the Colonel. You wish to know about my coming home. By & by when I get my official business in order, I may apply for a leave with permission for an extension. But it will not do to count upon it, for orders & other circumstances affect all arrangements we may make of this kind. I would rather be ordered out then go on a leave: for two reasons, one the expense and the other I would rather not have a leave recorded against me. For a stronger necessity for one may arise hereafter and I am disposed to stick to my post and do my duty. Warren gave me two pictures that he lithographed, one is a view of the Hotel & yard at West Point and the other is a view of the Chapel & Library at the same place. They are to the life & your mind is busy with associations when you look at them. Guy, my dear boy, I wish I could go & see you and let you see what your father's face is made of, & learn to love him. Is there another little heart that beats warmly & another pair of eyes, whether blue or black, that close in gentle slumbers. Love them dearest, but love Him who has given & may take away. Love Him who watcheth with sleepless eyes your little brood and who loves them, better than ever you can. Commit them to His care & protection. Ask Him for ~~His~~ the wisdom He alone can give, that you may rear them, not for wickedness & corruption, but to be His dear children. Are you his poor & weak. Christ sends His Spirit to strengthen you. May be you will say My dearest husband you do not know me, already have I committed you, my babes & myself wholly to Christ, my Redeemer. Already the love of his dear name springs up in my heart. Already, I love to read his word or have it read to me. Already, have I passed from darkness, to the

Mainburg June the 10 1857

Dear Sir I have just recieved yours all Correct and I am very much obliged to you for your Kind aletion I have got a home at last I am living With my Sister and have got a little Work I tok the best Care of your Shal I Could and When I got to Paladephia I Went to the express office and had a Box maid for it and Sent it on to mane algrding to What you told me Sir mister Pelouse Eused me first rate and When We got to his fathers house I Said till the next Day Sir I hope you got the Key of the gate as it Was late Wen I left it With Sentery on Post as I could not See Wilson at the time Sir Would you be Pleased to tell me if you and lutenant mack Paid my Way to Platsby as When We got that fair lutenant Pluse told me that he Would mak me a Presant of the expence that far Sir I Send you With this Newspaper and one for lutenant mack I am living neare magarsains foundery and if Ever you or lutenant mack Comes this Way I Would like to See you Please to tell all the old hands that am Well

Nathing more at
Presant but remains
yours Peter Hain

Plain

Leeds, Ala. June 10, 1857.

My dearest Husband.

I received to-day a good long letter from you, and enclosed was a check for $180.00. I will deposit before the end of the month about $150.00 of it. I shall need to use some this month and next, but I cannot tell just how much. You write you are in good health which I am happy to hear, and gave me a description of your trip in the steamer Ranger to Hot Sulphur Bay: a very pleasant excursion I should judge. I like to have you tell me where you go, and with whom you become acquainted. I think you have some very agreeable acquaintances and kind friends about you: that is right get acquainted with all the good people as you can instead of me when I arrive at Tampa. You may think I won't have an opportunity, or anything to call me there, but you will see. I'll bet all the money you have sent me (which I have

Mrs Blanchard
Hot Sulphur Springs
Va.
Care Ranger Hotel

deposited in my name) that I shall see you there this Fall. Hurra for Tampa! But Oh, me, when I turn from the imagining to the real it does not look so plain. I dont feel much like going to Tampa now. But I would like to be there. I presume Warren arrives about this time. You must tell me what he has to say about us. His friends have received letters from him mailed at Charleston and Savannah last Saturday. Col Gilmore and Mother went to Livermore in the Cars this afternoon to visit Ella and Mrs Lathrope. intend to return tomorrow noon. Rosa came back here yesterday. I did not think she would come at all. But am very glad, and hope she will stay as long as we do at least. I don't like to see Mother doing the work alone. William will go to Augusta to morrow by the way of Hallowell, and bring Mrs Clark home with him I expect in the afternoon. every letter you get after this I fancy you will tear open in great haste hoping ~~each~~ one will bring the good news. I hope, dearest, we shall have none but good news to write. But I bear in mind all the while we are not certain. I can only hope and pray that I may be carried safely through all trials now before me. Guy is sleeping sweetly now, he has but six teeth as yet. But seems to continue very well, although his gums are much swollen. I walked down to see Mrs Turner this morning, thought she would like to know William was going to Augusta. He will mail this as he passes the Brewsters. My Mother continues about the same. I am as well as usual. but a little tired from my exercise. I cannot write more this time as it is getting late and wish to make this to morrow to let you know the check came safely.

I am your affectionate wife

Lizzie Howard.

well if Rutland does. He thinks he will have one of his brothers for a room-mate all through the course. I think you will be ordered north some where soon. I don't like the idea of your staying down there in Florida all summer. The prayer-bell is now ringing and I must finish this. So good bye and pray for your

affectionate brother

Rudolphus N Gilmore

Lt. C. C. Hewitt
Tampa
Fla

N.B. Excuse mistakes as I have not time to look it over

Rudolphus

Andover June 12th 1857

My Dear Brother

I received a letter from you some time ago but I have not yet been able to answer it. I have to study quite hard in order to get my lessons. I have now to study "Nepos" to translate "Tacitus Germania" "Sabin Prose composition" & ancient History. You see from this that many an my time must necessarily be employed and consequently I have but a little time to write. I owe Rutland & Charles each a letter besides this. I do not feel in a writing mood this afternoon and you must excuse me if this letter is not very long. You may say that you should think it would be good enough for you since I am long enough making it. I have a very good roommate though he is not quite. His name is Coburn, he lives where we have in Dracut in this State. He being in the English department I do not enjoy myself near as well as I should if he was in the Classical. You said in your last letter that you had received the good news of Rutland's conversion and expressed a wish that you might receive some such news from me. I am happy to be able to send you in this letter that intelligence. It will be five weeks tomorrow night since I hope I hope that I began to feel the workings of the Holy Spirit in my heart. And the next day I went for Church Sake God pardoned my many sins. You

doubtless heard of this some time ago either through Lizzie Rutland or Charles. I have enjoyed myself a great deal better than I ever did before, since I made up my mind to follow the Blessed Saviour. There are a great many privileges here for attending Religious meetings; which you will see from this: Monday evening we have a prayer meeting in the Commons. Tuesday one in the Academy. Wednesday one in the Commons. Thursday a Religious Society meets at the Academy. Friday we have no religious meeting whatever as our debating Society meets that night. Saturday have a prayer meeting in the Academy. Sunday there are two meetings at the Chapel, and we can go immediately after the afternoon meeting to the Episcopal. In the evening there is a meeting in the room over mine for this community. You see from this that no one can find an excuse for not knowing the "Way to Salvation" after attending school here. Sunday morning we have a "Biblical Exercise" which I forgot to mention making five religious meetings that I attended last sunday and mean to do on other occasions... There has been a great many converted here in school this term. And I hope there will be more. I am in hopes that my charge will be among those who will find that they are greatly in need of a Saviour. He has long been under strong convictions but what the reason is why he does not come out I have never been able to understand. Many are interested and there seems to be a general wish among all that they may come to God so too, but all seem to try to put it off until a more convenient time offers itself. Every one says that he means to be a Christian some time but he wants to put it off until there is a more convenient season. Mothers children are now all professed followers of Christ and fathers too except one. Pray Otis for that one. Harder and worse cases than his have been known and have become the most faithful of Christians. Now why is there not a prospect for him. I was as great a sinner as he though perhaps not as long been accustomed to sin as I am not near so old, but if there ever was any way of hope for me, there is for him. You, where you are cannot do much more than to pray sincerely neither can either of us brothers situated as we are, but if we pray in faith our prayers will undoubtly be answered though it may not come right off yet the answer will surely come. I feel this and I pray every day for Rowland Alger. Rowland writes me that he has given up the Law and is going to study for the Ministry. I was some disappointed when I heard that though I suppose it will be all for the best. There cannot be any better employment than converting souls to God. It is a very pleasant place here and every thing now looks beautiful. I hope Rowland will come here to study Theology for here is one of the best places that he can purtly go to, and besides I can room with him through the whole course that I stay here and he will be here a year with Charles, that is if he comes here and he undoubtedly

help on One who is mighty & able to save even to the uttermost" - Stick to Him "Cleave unto Christ" - He will cleave unto you faithfully - I left the letter with Charles at Brunswick - I wanted him to share my joy - "This was our Brother" who was dead & is alive, who was lost & is found" - I wanted to call on the very trees & stones to rejoice with me - But there was something better - I do believe that dearest Ella is in sympathy with Christ & with me & now, with you - O Glory my God has blessed a poor, miserable, stumbling sinner - You are beginning now the battle - but, thanks be to God, the most useful & remarkable lesson that you have ever learned - The purpose that the life of Vicars served you was the same that it did me - I found then the same species of mind & heart that I myself experience - It is Saturday afternoon & has cleared off pleasant & Ella & I are to take an ride - I shall write you again & soon as I get back to Halewell - Monday - Ella sends her love & I am most lovingly

your Brother in Christ

Rowland

Rowland

Bath June 19th 1857

Dear Brother

You have given me a world of joy - Your letter was to me literally a "feast" - I thank my Lord & Master with my whole heart - O the Mercy of God - O the fullness & fullness of Christ - What an Earth so glorious as that "liberty - wherewith Christ shall make us free" - O My Brother. to be on & feel that you have got out into this "large place"! That Christ is your Saviour. that he was born. was tempted. persecuted. & crucified for you. & O my God - for me & not for me only but for all the world. When I wrote you first I had faith that "it" would speedily come to you & then, when I got your reply my spirits drooped - I felt disappointed. but I didn't fear my God - I felt as if He, in his mercy towards me had blighted my expectancy - that I might be more humble & prayerful - But - O, I did pray Him in my heart - that he might cleave some other way to afflict me & humble me - but that my dear Brother might be com-

tell among the children of God. partakers of their grace. Ellen has been up to Carolina to see some of her friends & started her trip to Hallowell to see me & my friends & we were returning yesterday in the cars when I first read your letter - having taken it from the office just before I started. What one knows, the other does & I read it aloud. O my dear Otis. if you could hear suddenly & unexpectedly of a loved friend who is a sinner made a subject of Gods grace. then will you feel the overpowering emotion that fills our hearts. I went to walk with Rev. Mr. Fiske in the Evening & told him something about it. O you should know him. He is such an enthusiastic Christian. Form is nothing to him. He is full & overflowing with the Spirit of Christ. When you said. "that night while at prayer "it" came". Ella & I could not restrain our feelings. I closed the letter for a few moments & spent them in silent Prayer. O I have been so happy ever since. When I awoke early this morning it was raining & I found Ellen & I could not take our proposed ride. but I felt that it would take a great great disappointment indeed. to do away with my joy. O Welcome, Welcome to the fold of Christ. Resolve to be an earnest Christian, my dear brother, - Let nothing separate you from the love of Christ. Look often into those holy & inspired Epistles & see how clearly & plainly. Paul, Peter & John speak to you. They had your very case in view when they wrote. A light from the throne of God seems to illumine every chapter & verse & from your heart - within shines out a light. Even the the light of the "new-birth" which makes all Gods word & works full of praise & love - "It"! How much to every Christian does that little word reveal. To Ellen & to me it was a whole volume. It spoke of a new Experience - a new knowledge - a new Life - Emotions never felt before - trust, peace, trust - dependence, joy, heaven, gratitude, "hope" were contained in that little "it". O God be praised for his mercy & his Grace. The foundation is now laid in Zion - The true life has begun. Christ is my "rock". Upon him I take my stand. To Him I look - to Him I flee. O God bless "Will

Camp Ft. Brooke Fla.
Jan 14th 1857

My dearest wife -

I am here still & have just time to say my love to Rowland, Guy, Mother & all. that I never was in better health - the mail has just come in & I have got no letter. haven't read a letter from home since I left home - I have been at work hard ifencing arms for two or three days - I have sent to Col Craig for four men - Now ~~are~~ Mr & Mrs Boggs & Mr & Mrs Lee - Good weight - Will try to write a long letter by next mail - much love -

Your most affectionate husband - Otis -

I am very anxious to get a letter from you -
The mails here have Sunday & Thursday ~~[illegible]~~ Sat - & Wednesday -

Fort Myers Fla.
(Sunday) June 14th 57

My dearest wife,

I am again at Ft. Myers, as you will notice. We went on board the Ranger in the morning, but as the Captain was afraid of a wind & the Ranger is only a river boat, he thought he had better not go outside. The Steamer Fashion was in the Bay, and so the Colonel decided to go down in her. As soon as water enough could be put on board for her to make a trip to Punta Rassa & thence to N. Orleans, we left. It was [illegible] about sunset Thursday evening. We had a pleasant night, & arrived in safety the next morning or rather a little after noon friday. I did not sleep much for the Captain. Baker was quite sick & delirious, and I took care of him till towards morning. Poor man I never saw a man in such mental agony before. I kept him on his bed, talked with him, diverted his mind, talked about Heaven, his God & his Saviour and got him to repeat the Lords prayer with me, after a time he got calm, held on to my hand, didnot want me to leave him, and dropped asleep. I slipped away & went to sleep and had a very good rest. His son was 1st Mate. The young man was frightened, his father was so bad. Before we reached Punta Rassa the Captain was able to take

charge of his vessel. I do hope he may never have another such an attack, for it will be difficult to hinder him from taking his own life. How glad I am that my Saviour has visited me & manifested himself to me - How he strengthens me to meet everything, and how pleasant it is to do even the saddest offices for others - when you feel that He is helping you - My moments of sadness are those in which I am conscious of having said something about another that I ought not to say; or when I get to taking credit to myself instead of giving it to Him who is my helper & my Guide -

As Rowland said the only bad thing is sin - temptations to do wrong, or to leave undone something I ought to do come in every form & shape. I find Warren Lathrop here, the officers like him much and he is getting on admirably. He went on as officer of the day yesterday and served on a Board of Survey. Afterwards had to make out the Proceedings. He goes cheerfully about every sort of duty & is delighted with Fort Myers -

The 5th Infantry usually concentrated here - The Ranger is taking them down to Punta Rasa, where the (Ocean or Sea) Steamers Fashion & America are in waiting to take them to New Orleans. Two Companies were at Tampa when I left, going by the Mail steamer - About three Companies left here by the Ranger this morning. The America leaves with her load tonight. The Fashion will take the rest on Tuesday next. Warren is attached to Capt P. R. Clark's Co. for the present; which Co. relieves the troops at this post. Warren's Company is now on the way here from Fort McRae. I have met a classmate Stephen D. Lee of the 4th Artillery here, and a fine young man he is too - He is even cousin to Lee R.E. of our Department, at Waterville. I have seen Mrs Waite & the Colonel - She asked for you. I told her I thought you were pretty well - I wish I knew how you really were - It is almost the middle of June - God will care for you & you will love Him.

I hope your Mother won't be sick now, for you are not able to take care of her. You said she was better or quite well again in your last letter. It is very warm & showery - rather oppressive, the heat is. I am staying at the house of Capt Hancock of the Quartermaster's department, but am now writing in Warren's room. This is the Sabbath, but we have no religious exercises and it seems very little different from any other day. Poor little Guy & perhaps —

I must try to write a few lines to Mother tomorrow morning before the Mail leaves - Be patient My darling wife, I know you have been a noble & good wife. I appreciate you & hope it won't be long before we will be living together again - I will not try to write you more this time - Give my love to all at home.

Your own affectionate husband

Otis -

P.S.

We will go back to Tampa soon after the 5th gets out. —

Leeds. Me. June, 14. 1857.

My dearest Husband,

I received two letters from you last week, and am very glad that I get them regularly again. I miss them so much when the time goes by that I should receive one and do not. I wish I was able to write you a long letter to-day this holy Sabbath. But I fear I can not. I cannot write much without getting tired now, and it is not to be wondered at: this letter cannot possibly reach you before my confinement, dearest, and I am so happy you wrote me as you did in your last letter dated, May 31. I feel now that should I not recover from my approaching illness - should affliction come upon you, how much better you are prepared to meet it than formerly. you would see in the end, the hand of Providence in any affliction, and must feel to say, "thy will be done". It would be hard to know that we were not again to meet in this world, and it may be you have received strength at the right time. and I know

Tuesday Evening June 23
I am very well
dearest - and
shall I hope
get a letter
from you

Received June 24/57

Answered June 27th

Book and talking about the pictures, putting his blocks in the box then taking them out to put them in again, sitting beside him on his little bench. He wrote one letter to you to-day while Mother was waiting - cars for his papa and point saying, "papa." and with his motions I understood what he wanted. Monday Evening. I am in my room, dearest, with dear little Guy asleep on my bed, and waiting for the hour of rest to come and will fill this sheet while waiting. I am quite well to-night, but how much I do [illegible] with you: to be alone to keep all joys and sorrows to yourself, and because none can sympathize with you like ones own husband as good as [illegible] as you are and have ever been, I will get another letter from you to-morrow I trust, I have no time to write. I have written a note to Peleg to-day. Mother is about the same, has been lying down most of the day. All the rest are quite well. Ella was visiting Aunt Ellen at Hallowell last Thursday. William informed us when he returned with Mrs Clark. Every letter I now write I think will be the last for the present. I dont want to be separated from you again during my life. Hoping this separation is nearly ended

I am better prepared to meet my God than I ever have been. But I hope to be permitted through his wisdom to dwell some years longer in this world to live a christian's life and take care of my children, who will so much need a mother's care during their tender years. I pray more than ever longer for the time to come, if as it can be, that we shall be together to share each others joys, sorrows, pains and pleasures. I think if you have to stay in Florida this winter I had better come to you. I cant feel that I ought to stay here longer than I am able to get away. Mrs Clark came home last Thursday, and I am very glad that she is here, for Mother is not as well as when I wrote last Wednesday, but I dont think she will be confined to the bed. I remember last year about this time she had an ill turn, and I think she is subject to them as the year comes round.

Evening. I wrote the above at different times during the day, which may account for its being so broken and unconnected. I must write to you as long as I am able to hold a pen for it is one of my chief pleasures. Mr & Mrs Turner and Lucia have been here since tea. Flora was here yesterday to see Guy. She goes to school now and has not been here for a long time to play with him. He was delighted to see her and spoke about her "bow-wow" and "Uncle, Ma: my. Guy, ajack" leaving out all small words in the sentence. Trying to tell her he remembered his visit to the house. When he rode home with Rowland. Col G. and Mother went to the church this morning expecting to hear preaching, but by some misunderstanding there was no Minister, as they had a prayer meeting and got home about one o'clock. My brought this little parcel & enclose it with this. I will write to Reg to let him know we have left Gray. I presume I shall see them here at Leeds during their stay in Maine. I must tell him I am quite sure you did answer his letter of congratulation &c. Rev. Mr. Snyder is in town and is to preach at Wayne this summer. Rev. Mr. Armitage is soon to be married to Miss Lottie Lambert. I must try to write to Mrs Chatterton this week, and tell her not to come to Leeds till after "muster" Guy has been very happy all day because "Mamy" has played with him a great deal — showing him his

Barracas Barrack, Fla
Warrington P.O. June 15. 1857.

My Dear Howard.

This morning arrived the enclosed letter for you, directed as I see by our respectable friend John Todd, who has lately hung up his hat at Waterlick.
I do take the opportunity to send you a remembrance, and let you know that at least one Brd. officer appreciates your out of the way location. I am writing this letter different omen Saturday, as the steamer Atlantic left here at that day for place, with Dr Stevens of the Engrs on board, whence you may possibly see, as he may go to Tampa, on his way to Washington. Altho I denote Bath, it is extreme staying for you to be separated from yr wife so long, still yr experience in Florida cannot but be of great value to you, not only that it throws you with the army or a portion of it, and thus gives you some insight into army life as it really is, but that it throws you on yr own responsibility and creates a field for the exercise of yr judgement, forethought, prudence & skill in the discharge of the more immediate duties of yr corps. I do not doubt you have already been impressed with this, and have profited by it.
For myself I love steam, nearly one year ago I came here to inspect their armament, at that time I had had but little experience in such matters, except perhaps the mechanical part of the day. I could tell whether a carriage was defective, but how much it would cost to repair it, was a difficult thing to get at. I have been hard drunk ever since my arrival

here, have only completed the repairs of one week to the Bahamas. the repairs at Pickens & Mitchell are made under weigh and will all the Ord: work in the Harbor will be completed by the middle or last of Sept. I estimated the labor at $3,200. I have already spent $10,000 & want $10,000 more to finish, so much for estimates.

I have however collected a mass of information respecting such work, which will be very valuable for future reference and in case you are at any time called upon to make repairs at any of our sea coast forts. Drop me a line and I can give you a few hints which will save you not only much trouble, but as it cost me in my own case ~~[illegible]~~ I had to pay some little mortification.

Our whole system of arming & preserving Forts & armament is altogether from beginning to end, and the sooner it is reformed the better for all concerned.

When you leave Tampa, let me advise you to come here in the steamer, you can see the works here. Capt Newton the Engr Offr here will pay you every attention, and you can then go north via Mobile & the mail route.

I have no particular news. Derby (John Phenix) is ordered here to take charge of a new light house, and other works in that Dist on the Alabama coast, he comes down in the fall.

In consequence of the state of my affairs at home, the illness of my wife I have applied for a leave this summer, asking that I be relieved from Duty here by Brereton, who is in command at Mt Vernon. If I get it I shall leave him about the 12 July, & pack those few of my belongings I will apply the last of July. I wish much my dear Howard I could meet you, and hope our paths may cross at some future day. I have been under orders for West Pt for a year past, but lately I have heard that I was to be ordered to Washington. I shall believe it when I get the order.

Take care of yourself this summer & don't let yellow jack catch you. Drop me a line, if you have time & believe me truly yours

Geo. H. Balch

Fort Myers Florida
June 15th 1859.

My dear Mother,

I have been thinking about writing you for a long time, but you & Lizzie being at the Corner house, I think you will get all the news from her. But since I started out to acknowledge my Saviour before the world I have often thought how happy you would be to get a letter from me telling you of it, and showing that a good Mothers prayers are not in vain. God has been very good to us all, through life and yet we haven't acknowledged it or suffered him to have a place in our affections. But he is of long suffering & tender mercy and at last we are led to place ourselves on the side of his people & commence, however poorly in our weakness, to do his will. You can now pray for me with a full heart and you must do so; that I do not yield to the threatened temptations that environ me, that I stand boldly forth to defend the cause of my Lord, that I have more & more of the Holy Spirit to influence me, to lighten up my mind and heart, so as to know better my duty & be enabled to do it. I came down here with Colonel Loomis last friday. The 8th Infantry will all be gone by tomorrow night & the Colonel will return in the Steamer "Ranger" to Tampa, but he will

Dear Mother I pray you may prove a great blessing to your children & be a blessing to many others. Write often. I shall write as I have time. Pinkard will take this. Give my love to Lizzie & Willie & tell them I will write to them soon. Good bye. Your affectionate son
W. Myers Jr.

leave me here to do some special duties in this section before I return. You must not worry yourselves any if you do not get a letter for some little time. I am now acting Assistant Adjutant General to the Colonel commanding the Department; a high sounding name, which means simply that I am aiding him in issuing his Orders to different Officers. When I get back to Tampa I will tell you all I have seen & done.

I am very anxious for Lizzie now, and wish I could be at Tampa, where I could write her by every mail. I do hope she will be enabled to go through with her coming trials in safety, but it want do to be presumptuous. Our Father knows what is good for his children. He will guard her & protect her and she must learn to love him.

Warren is quite pleased with his post & his duties. He talks with me every day, about the business of Officers and the particular things he will be called on to do. He is temporarily attached to Captain F. R. Clark's company. The Captain told me to day that he should make him his Post Adjutant. He will have considerable to do but this will suit him. My Christian profession does not lessen the regard that Officers seem to have for me. It is just as possible & easy to be a Christian in the Army, as elsewhere, and there is a wide field for Christian labor. The Morning before I left Tampa my men came into my little room just after six for morning prayers. They seemed to like it, were respectful. It seemed a mountain to get over before I proposed it but. I just asked them (8 of them) and they came. My Saviour has strengthened me to pray with others. I find my pride is a great obstacle to my advancement, and I am often inclined to think I am doing some very good things - if it was not for this I should feel more free to tell what I have been enabled to see & do. The Spirit of My beloved Saviour shows me the way & I must try to walk in it with humility of Spirit before him. It is not easy to meet those from whom I have stood aloof in other things on an equal footing in even religious matters. The thought comes: "the soul of that poor creature is as important in the sights of God as your own". "You can visit the educated, the rich & refined, and can your not speak a word of comfort, or encouragements to the ignorant"? It isn't all of a Christian's duty to pray three times a day. He does not do one half his duty when he does his best, but I hope & pray, that I may draw closer & closer to My Saviour, that he may teach me & lead me, that I may commune with him & love him, as he made me do the first time I saw the light. It wont do yet to ask me of what persuasion I am, for I don't know. I think sometimes I must be a Methodist - then a presbyterian, but I don't believe the man who really loves his Saviour can easily tell. I wish there was but one Church & that was called "the Church of Christ"

Fort Myers Florida
June 17th 1857

My dearest wife

I was fortunate enough this morning to get a letter from you dated the 1st of June. Your mother had gone to Turner & Rowland was at home on a short visit. You seemed to be pretty well as you were able to take care of little Guy & visit Mrs Turner. I will thank my Heavenly Father for all his goodness to us, for having preserved & sustained you so well through all your trials - and you must earnestly thank Him for what He has done for me. I don't know that I was ever in better health. I sometimes eat too heartily at night, but I have had no great trouble resulting from even this. If the time of your visitation has not come already, it will have taken place when this reaches you. You will be wishing that Otis knew, and anticipating with mingled joy & pride the time when you can present the little bundle to your husband. Happy days are in store my Darling Lizzie. I fear there will be a thousand & one comparisons between Guy & the baby. but the little mother must keep things in her heart & love them equally. Guy must learn from Mama to love the little one. You shall join me here when the season comes that will do for you here. It is well to come late

to own thee. Let them read "John" to you, when you are able to listen - all, from the beginning to the end. I will be reading it about that time - The ups & downs of our past life from the commencement of our acquaintance to the present time have recently passed in review with me. I can now trace the Guiding hand of a Great Power all the time unseen & unknown. Through all. He has chastened & has blessed and now if we are willing will save.

Lee & I had a good ride yesterday evening on horseback. He rode a large, fine black horse - and I a light bay. We staid out about an hour and came in much refreshed. I have him a very comfortable little room. Mrs Hancock with her little boy has gone to her home in St. Louis to spend the hot weather - The Captain, a man about thirty two - is one of the handsomest & best dispositioned men I ever knew, and I expect he is without any question the best officer in this department. He has to work hard to furnish transportation for troops so scattered, but he does all & wears the same cheerful & happy face at all times. Only one thing is wanting to make him my model of what a man should be & that is a love for his Saviour - Give my love to all. Kiss Guy & baby, if there's such a little one. Remember me kindly & affectionately to all my friends who may enquire for me. I think of many I would like to see & by name, but names take up room. Myself & Warren well -

Your ever loving husband
Otis

Dont give credit to those stories about Chas M. till you know certainly - Many good men have been slandered. I don't believe it is in him to be unkind & I know he loves his wife & child. They may have had some temporary disagreements for she is quick tempered & sensitive. Be assured that Charles will be far from abusing his wife. I have written him lately. Who can have told you such things?
Otis

in the fall, after all danger of contagion has passed by. The winter, spring & early part of the summer fit am for the rest of the year, under ~~them~~ one in a measure acclimated. I don't know that I suffer more with the heat than other people, though the Mosquitoes make my hands itch a little. It rains regularly every afternoon (or nearly so). Not in the morning but cool in the evening & nights. The 8th Infantry all departed yesterday. Colonel Loomis has gone back to Tampa, where I will join him after I have performed some official duties in this section. Be not worried for God will take care of me. He knows how long to keep me & what to do for & with me — and will surely save me & you, if we trust in him. It is very sweet to be a Christian, for then his judgments & his bounties are all blessings. I can now kneel before him and pray for every good thing to come upon my little wife. I know he will give good things to them that ask him. But I will wait till I hear from you as to these things — though I know you love me and would not willingly take from me one spark of light, one happy moments, if you could help it. I hope you will be as delighted to talk of Christ, our Saviour, of God & of Heaven as I am when the Holy Spirit is sent into my heart, but I may by saying too much now puzzle & perplex you and hinder one of the greatest things I desire for your present and future happiness. The only officers now here are Captain F. M. Clarke 4th Artillery in command of the Post. Capt Hanecek, Quartermaster Department with whom I am staying. My intimate friend & classmate Stephen D. Lee & Warren Sotthrop. St Wilcox is on his way here with a company. Lieut Solomon who has been on detached service; and Captain Cleland & Lieut Andrews with another company. I am waiting for the latter. Warren is now adjutant of the Post. He is longing for letters from home. Said he believed he must get married in order to get letters regularly. I may get a furlough to go for you, but am not so certain. Prepare yourself for Southern society by saying to yourself. Rows to Leeds & rows at Leeds. I am joking, my Darling wife, but I am almost afraid to joke, lest all may not be well.

I do long to get with you again, that we may talk over lots of things; that we may read the Bible together & pray together. My heart is really so different, so free from every load, so much more independent of men, but dependent on God, that it seems to me our meeting here will be very full of joy. The bonds of affection are tightening. We are more united in heart & purpose. We have more ties, interests & responsibilities in common than ever before, and isn't God who directs all things well, very good to us? What can we have done to deserve it? Oh! Nothing in the wide world; we may have striven to please each other & ourselves, but not him. Yet he is gracious & of tender mercy & draws us unto him. He will not turn away, lest then he be ashamed of us, who are ashamed

Leeds, Me. June 19 1867.

My dearest Husband.

I did not receive a letter from you this week till to-day, when I was very happy to get two. Dated June 3. and June 7. It is now Friday evening and I should have written this letter and had it gone to the P.O. yesterday, the day I generally mail letters, but I could not seem to write. I have to do things as easy as possible. I continue quite well however as yet. I am so happy you write me as you do opening your heart to me. I wish so much to be with you, dearest, and wish I was able to go to you immediately. I know you will have me come to you as soon as I am able. I guess I would have liked to have gone on with Hannah; although if it had been so arranged I dare say I should have hesitated to start on so long a journey. This Mother received a letter Friday which I think might have been from you with a check enclosed, as you mentioned in my

Mrs Rosina Clarke care of Hon L. Lewis Fort Leavenworth Kan

letter. I cannot write more to-night but hope to be able to write much to-morrow.

Saturday Evening. I left off writing last evening because I was too unwell to write and now I am not as well as I was then. Oh, my dearest Otis, I dont know what will become of me — I have no strength, no courage and but little hope for the future. I am rejoiced that you love your Saviour, for you will be happy let the future be to me as it may; I hope to live, and walk hand in hand with you. I do believe our dear little Guy was given us through the providence of God to open our eyes to our duty — to love and serve Him. I have often thought of the message Uncle Enoch sent us in the midst of our rejoicing over his birth. "to stop our rejoicing and consider our responsibility." How differently those words sound to me now than they did then; have you thought of it? I have written that my mother was not at all well, I think she is very low now — has not been as well this week, and has not been able to sit up any. I greatly fear the effect it would have on her, should I be taken sick while she is so unwell. I have Mrs Clark with me and do not know what I could do were I alone with her; and Guy must be taken care of; he has never been neglected, or left to take care of himself as some are obliged to do with their children, and I dont want him to. When he has good care taken of him he is well and hearty, but when I am not particular to watch him and see that he does not eat something I would not approve, or he exposed in any way. I can observe the difference, therefore I think he would soon become a delicate chilgo if he not have the best of care. Sunday Morning. I shall be obliged to finish this letter in haste that Mother S. can leave it on the way to church. Mother is about the same this morning, but is not able to sit up. I wish I had you present to give me courage. But, dearest, I will be as strong and cheerful as I possibly can be under present circumstances. and try to be ever your good, affectionate little wife.

Lizzie Howard.

Mother
June 22nd
1857

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Leeds. June, 22d. 1857.

My Dear Son

This is just to say that Lizzie is in bed as comfortable as we could expect, she has a little daughter born fifteen minutes before one to day and now it is nearly four, she has borne it all with uncommon fortitude Guy is in good health, and all the rest of us, no one could do better than Doct Loring has in this case, & said all the rest of us were well, Mrs Waite is having a sick time dont set up any Lizzie has written since the reception of her two last letters, I am rejoiced to have you in such a state of mind & hope you will live near to God, and kept from wounding his precious cause the Doct is Waiting to take these few lines to the office, I will just say you have the best wishes of a mothers heart, ever with you, in haste.

Olive Gilmore

we have just weighed the little dame she 4¼ pounds is fair mamma.
G & Grandma,

Mr Allen
Jan 22
1870

you could know her & now - you will love her better - Poor Lizzie. Ella & I have prayed for her this last week with all our hearts - O may she know this grace of God which will teach her to say, "it is good to have been afflicted". Charles was at the meeting one day - He is well & as usual in the enjoyment of a good measure of God's presence - What - you said in that blessed letter which bore to me the news of Salvation - about my becoming a Minister was a little obscure to me - O Olie, how can I be anything else but a minister of God - I know my besetting sins - Indolence & Vanity - But I bless God - His grace is sufficient for me - O, Olie, Mrs Waite is dead - ? I have got the dispatch now. I go right to Leeds - Give to God dear dear Mother & to him alone - Secure us all with Him - Secure Lizzie Guy & the little one in the bosom of our blessed Saviour - I will write from Leeds - "She died this morning" Thats all. Goodly Bye. Portland

Hallowell June 22, 1857

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My dear Mother

I have been putting off writing you since my return from Bath in hopes that I might have some news from Leeds to communicate. Mother wrote Charles a week ago yesterday & he came with me here Thursday night & stay'd the last I have heard - Lizzie was then well but Mrs. Waite sick - I suppose Mrs. Blank went up Friday week. I went with the "boy" to Augusta for her - but concluded wait till they got away - I have thought some of going home myself - but I didn't think it did any good & I felt as if I should increase the family & nurse - sure that Lizzie would feel any better to have me about -

You will receive news from Leeds directly sooner than you can from me - I write today because I am going to Bath in the morning to spend the week in attendance of the Annual Conference of the Congregational Churches of Maine & the Anniversaries connected therewith - they will continue four days & I know the Spirit of God will be there - There has been unusual religious interest & zeal all over New England this Spring - & these meetings furnish its highest & most spiritual development - Capt Patten has gone to Philadelphia & I am to act as "host"

during his absence - The meetings last four days - Would that you could be here with me & enjoy with me these privileges with the "new light" beaming on them all - I have pretty nearly decided to go to Bangor - Prof. Sheppard preached two of his masterly discourses here yesterday - They were characterized by his usual power & contained literally nothing but the Gospel of Christ - How pleasant would it be if you & Sellie could be baptized with Charles & I the first Sunday in July Dr Sheppard is to officiate - But you will have received to you a still more blessed privilege at some future day - that of going forward with your one dear little wife & children & consecrating all of them to the Service of God - May He grant you that blessed opportunity of taking his vows upon you - I spent last evening in private with Dr. Sheppard - He is the same slow, heavy thinker & talker that he is in public - but there is a ponderous weight & an outstanding & unmistakable truth in all he gives out of him.

June 30, 1857 -

As you see I did not finish my letter before I went to Bath to the meetings. Friday morning I received Mothers letter of the previous Monday containing the news of your daughters birth - I thence have telegraphed to Laramah but it was so late before I received Mothers letter that I thought you would have been above or soon by cause of mail from Leeds -

O how your heart, as mine did, must rest in thankfulness to the Kind & Merciful God - Mrs. Waite it seems is very sick - I thought have gone home monday but Mr. Hinchfield was going West & wished me to see to some business for him & he has been so kind to me that I did not know how to refuse him - I shall be at Leeds next Thursday if Nothing happens & we know they all are - I must return Friday P.M. -

Next Sunday Charles & I are to unite with the "Olive Leaf" Church by Baptism. There are three other young persons - Before you receive this - I shall have been vowed anew by a solemn Covenant to the Service of God. Pray that I may be entirely set apart for that Service. that I may do nothing but love my God -

O how much I pray that both Ellen & I may be consecrated entirely to God - that we may feel that the world is nothing to us - O I wish

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1857

1857 AP

Cooking Fish Eating Creek
June 24th 1857
June

My dearest wife.

We have now only about 40 miles further to march before we get to Istokoga Lake, where we are to try to communicate with the Indians - I am well. The Express is waiting. God bless you. I am having a good time - Love to all.

Your Off-
husband
Otis

Watervliet Arsenal, N. York,
June 26th 1857

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Mrs. Howard;

Dear Madam,

Two or three persons have visited the Arsenal for the purpose of examining your carriage, but since you left the price at which it might be sold, it still remains on hand. Will you be so kind as to inform me as to what you intend doing with it. I would write to Mr. Howard, but I dont know where a letter would find him, and therefore take this more certain way of finding out his wishes in this particular. If you wish it sold will you tell me at what price I may sell it if I receive an offer again. Remember me kindly to your Mother, and Mr. R. How does Guy come on now? I suppose he talks a good-deal before this. Mr. Thomk is at West-Point Foundry trying some heavy pieces of Ordnance, & will probably be there for some months yet, says he is wasting powder during the day, and wasting his time at W. Point in the evening with the Ladies. Says he is

pretty deep in love now, with a fa
prospect of sinking much deeper. M
Boggs is at Baton Rouge Arsenal
with her husband, and Shunk
considering they are married they se
to be quite contented. Where is Mr. H
now? In Florida still? Miss Lee re
her love to your Mother, Guy & yours
in which I heartily join. The inh
-itants of Waterville generally ask to
kindly remembered to you and yours.

I remain Madam
Your friend
Charles Lee

Mrs. Sr. O. O. Howard
Leeds
Maine

P.S.

Lieut. Todd has arrived. He is a
bachelor of 27 years. Major Mordecai is
at present in Command of this post.

Mrs Thos C Rowland

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1857.

Rowland, my dear Leeds June 27th.

I wish you to come home, Mrs White is panting out her last day, probably, she will not hold out more than thorough the night, she has lost the power of speach entirely. Lizzie is as comfortable as we could expect under present circumstances I wrote you at Bath last Tuesday and directed it to Bath, thought probably you would get it, the next day, in which stated of Lizzie's confinement and that she had a fine little daughter the little thing was born the 22nd of of this month, Lizzie is ~~a~~ not in a trying situation, your father is old and quite deaf and we need some one in the house more than him, if your calculations are such, that you cannot come, if you get this let me know soon of your calculations, I have talked with Lizzie this afternoon of this great trial that she is passing

through, she says she is prepar'd to meet it, all things are, at peace in her heart, she is happy in her affliction although every particle of her frame shook when she was talking, Lissie was taking removed into the parlor last thursday, and has not seen her mother since she says she took leave of her when we moved her, I hope she will not ask to see her again, because she would be so shocked at the change that has taken place in her since she was removed from her, Guy has been good until, to day, he has been rather fractious, perhaps having so many new ways to get used to, Lissie received a letter from Otis the next day after her confinement, she was so feeble that she never open'd until yesterday, I was almost all on the subject of his bright and happy change Lissie says she is prepared for any trial but unless a greater power than herself, had sustain'd her, she could not have bourn up under

Mrs Hicks and Mrs Jones came up from Lewiston yesterday, and left Mrs Jones here, with Mrs White, she is now standing over her, fanning her and wetting her lips, I am writing in the North Chamber, where I hear every breath, attended with a groan I hope you will be able to come home,

from your affectionate Mother
Eliza Howard

Mr Rowland. B. Howard

Rowland
June 30th
/57

Leeds June 30th
6 O'Clock P.M.
[1857]

Dearest Mother

I didnt know but that the closing part of my letter this morning might occasion you unnecessary alarm & so I write immediately. Lizzie is calm & comfortable. Yes more, she is happy. You can not be told the extent of her joy. She is a child of Jesus. This great joy & peace in the heart has its own legitimate effect & she is full of this spirit. "Not my will but thine O Lord be done". Then I came she put her feeble arms around my neck & murmured as she kissed me. "O Rowland, I am glad you have come to sympathize & rejoice with us"! There was the sweet beautiful baby by her side & Guy stood beside me as I knelt & kissed his little sister again & this child is well and actually so lovely — I think. Uncle is again so

not tell you how much under God you owe to him. He says Mr Waite could not live. She was willing & ready to die. She rejoiced in your change of heart & we have every reason to hope that the hear you to her Saviour. Lizzie believes it & the knows best. The Dr. says Lizzie's case has been perfectly satisfactory from the first. That it has progressed favorably in every particular. Your letters to her & Mother came together. She will not read ~~yours~~ hers till she is a little stronger. I have told her that it is all good news. There will be a prayer here tomorrow at 8 O'Clock & then we shall follow the hearse to North Lynn & Mr. Bates will attend the funeral (tomorrow at 4 O'Clock) Father, Mother, Oscar, Rosilla & Dr. Loring & I will go. I will stay till Lizzie is better and, in the meantime, she & all that remains of your & her Mother shall be cared for as if you were here. All we need

Mother is

& again. "Little innocents" said Lizzie "they have done much to open our eyes". O, Otis, I felt like Simeon of old. Blessed blessed moment!
Lizzie said "Mother has gone home she only waited till the Lord me parely through my trouble & then departed"
I have been alone so much that I have done much thinking - but of late it came so bright - so beautiful. It has kept growing brighter & brighter all the time. O I can't be sorrowful. Mother is at home - is at rest - Otis & I will come together bye & bye when I get all well & we shall be so happy in our religion & with these little ones" - Do you wonder, My dear Brother, that it seemed more a house of feasting than one of mourning - I can't be unhappy.
Guy has been in my arms ever since I came - I know "Mamma" loves to have him there & feels that he is safe there - O you should see him he rejoices over that sweet little baby - She has eyes "deeply, darkly beautifully blue" & the noblest forehead - Why Guy looked like a dunce compared to her! Guy says she is "Mamma's baby" & that he is "papas baby".
When they ask him where "his nose is broken" - he shows us by taking hold of it. O you have reason to thank God for these precious ones lent to you - Lizzie said "God gives them to us" - Mrs Nail is laid out in the North room & Lizzie is sick in the parlor - Everything is so quiet & well conducted in the house - She died at 2. O'clock this morning - Mrs. Jones was here & her other friends have been to see her since she has been sick - Everything has been done that could be - Her blood was all gone - Dr. Loring has been faithful and attentive - I need

O Lizzie & I seem so near to each other now!