

to be very sick - It has rained here
all day - Leaks in this room where
we sit - Mother sits by mending my
clothes - I shall have to give up going
to Brk - the sleeping will be ruined
for the present - a brief letter from
Nettie came with the prin & the
Doesn't Otis' letter really seem like
war? Nettie intimates that you
are studying hard - Give that your
maximum study time regularly, will
you? Half or 3/4 hour a day I suppose
is sufficient - Oliver says they had quite
an exciting time last night. Benj. Fane's
was a strange eloquent upon the idea
of civil war! A Young Turner from London
spoke well - in favor of Rep. S. S. Pillsbury
There was much lamentation in Bangor
over the death of Wm. Malby - Did the
college respect any exercises on the receipt
of the news - You must write a loss in
modern languages - He was a fine man & much
esteemed. I have been reading some - Did you
go to Bath? Affectionately yours
C. H. Howard

C. H. Howard
Feb. 15. 1861

West Point N.Y.
Feb 5th 1861

My dear Father

I have a few minutes
before breakfast which I will dedicate
to you - I presume you are still at
Seeds and I hope you are enjoying
good health & making father &
mother happy by those kind
efforts which nobody but a son
can make. "Honor thy Father
& thy Mother" never ceases to
apply however far we advance in
age. I hope father has got well of
his lame back - Rowland or Chen
I forget which intimates that you
are taking care of the political
concerns of Seeds. Well. What is
the state of the country? Are all
for the Union or Thomas Senior?

We extemporised a large company of artillery
here, which left for Washington last
week. All the dragoon detachment
was taken & part of the artillery detach-
ment, the Cadets horses, four pieces
with caissons & accoutrements. They
left Monday morning about 1 P.M. 6
horses to a piece of ordnance & 6 to each
caisson & six to the limbering force & 6
to the baggage wagon. The entire
command 80 men, four officers &
70 horses. The left bank is in a
Westward direction over the mountains.
They had fourteen miles to go before
striking the branch of the Gov. R.R. They
knew many, many poor wives & children
behind. They have only received pay up
to the end of October. I shall expect much
suffering in this region before they
return. They gave many cheers
for the Union as they were crossing
the plain of the foot & seemed to
be full of good spirits. I am afraid

any thing more about prayer & fast for colleges.

of whiskey to a great extent. War
many drunkenness & ^{very numerous} license always
go together. My time is up. Must
love to all - All well -

Aff. Yr. Bro

Oliver
Seeds Feb. 12, 1861

Dear Brother

Oliver got in this letter today
having got it on his way home from the
Lycium last night. I found several at
the Junction yesterday waiting for our train
& I expect that Mr. Fogg brought some of
them up & others took along the Seeds,
mail as that is asserted in the other
road - They think it wasn't in a state for
me to take up. Lucretia was well. I
found that the little boy looks just like George
Mother had a letter from Rowland last
week - He preached with little difficulty
the Sat. before - Rev. Mr. Perkins would
probably help him next Sat. He is my
teacher in Hebrew - Peter Bates continues

When we return we shall be making some little

2/5/1861

From: Oliver Otis Howard

To: Brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-045

West Point, N.Y.

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.

2/12/1861

From: Charles H Howard

To: Brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-045a

Leeds, Maine

[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.

nor this 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 - Br Union
has been obliged to recede from
that nice block - Wheelright &
Clark's - (Boston like place) - Its
articles are shameful & shameful.

Tell me of your situation of course.
You have not yet written since
going to Portsmouth - My respects
to Portsmouth acquaintances - My
regards to Alf. Mitchell whom I
heard from thro' Frank Sobona of
myself who saw him as he passed thro' S.

Affectionately yours
C. H. Howard. Charles

Bangor Apr. 19, 1861

My dear Brother

I have been long
expecting that letter which you prom-
ised - 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 suspension
was the consequence.

I should not have waited for
a letter but have been unusually
busy of late - Now I have an
annual Declaration to prepare &
can hardly spare time to attend
to any extra work. I have

felt quite anxious at times to know
how you were 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 some
way 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 setbacks
for sinners 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
agents of Providence may work
our good & will work to
the good of those that love
God.

We have no news tonight from
Baltimore - Some Brothers, sisters,
brothers & sisters probably are in
deep grief - And it seems so
entirely uncalculated for there - Besides
those Baltimore ruffians some
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
the other eve. George Blake
made a sound
union & patriotic speech - Mr
Crillis made a stirring one
but two other speakers counted
for very little tho' they bellowed
pretty loudly & were a loud
applauded. The Provincetown
Hall (Normbega) was intensely
crowded -

Have not heard from Mother

4/19/1861

From: Charles H Howard

To: Brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-046

Bangor

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

over then not more than $\frac{1}{4}$ 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 hope to receive some
pay in this way, but have not got any
chance to make anything - The Maine papers
cannot afford to pay.

I think of volunteering in order to aid Otis
in making up my salary - I write for
him - letters & anything he desires - Lizzie
wished me to stay with him & he had
planned for me to do as before we got to
N. 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 remuneration.

Altho' the hot weather wonderfully & was
better today, (what they call the hottest we
have had) than I have been for some time.
I ride horseback considerably - It is a charm-
ing country & we have as nice horses as
one could wish -

Johnny Wier of West Point has talked
of coming on to join our Reg^{mt} - Lizzie
wants to come with him as the best
we'd invitation from Mrs. Carroll of Washington

to come - Mrs. C. writes of St. C. with
show they live in the same house at
W. P. But Otis could not consent -
I've been expecting orders to go to Alexandria
every day & that is 7 or 8 miles away &
right in the enemy's country - I was
almost house sick 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 one room were
4 receptionists under guard - I dread
the order to go there but then we shall
make it cheerful & be contented, with our
Reg^{mt} there - We have prayer meetings twice
a week - They are good. And many
have for the first time expressed the desire
& determination to be Christians - The Col's
influence is very different in this respect
from many of the Officers whom we
meet - The Col's, in the morning prayer
sometimes - Rev. Mr. Church 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
punches & envelopes to the men but the
fact's sure to be that as he has been making
charge sometimes - selling the men paper &c

6/21/1861

From: Charles H Howard

To: Mother

CHH-047

Camp Morrill
Washington D.C.

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.

our life here - It seems so that we did not have service at W. 2^d at 5 P. M. Yesterday morning a fugitive slave woman, with her babe & a boy about 10 came to us. About noon when three Mr. men were here the owner a woman, lowlived, ugly tempered & revolting in appearance, came to claim them - It is told her at first that she could have them - having inquired how she treated them &c but she shows beyond they would not go back - at first she thought to send them back as they were but in by our pickets & could not get on without papers from her - she finally told her she did not wish to act upon it without further orders - The slave cried & sobbed - The woman was exasperated & talked very harshly with coarse language - It is sent the woman away till today when she came again - Meanwhile he got orders from Ad. Dir'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

Arrived at Alexandria Va.

I am sure before the word of this again perhaps -
 Lizzie cart after -
 moved into Room -
 to come on to -
 let me write her -
 My love to -
 Father, Sister -
 & Mother -
 My Affectionate -
 Son -
 Le Howard

Head Quarters 3^d Brigade
 Bush Hill Aug. 12, 1861 -

We have been notified that we are to move back near 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 pair of pants. It is all I want. I have two under shirts - one of which was a present from Mr. Buell and to Col. Howard - I saved the one you made for me.

We have a wagon to carry our baggage. Am sorry to leave our quarters here when we have a nice room, chambers, beds &c. My blankets were stolen after I got back from the Battle so I must get some new ones - Genl. McClellan's plan seems to be to concentrate his forces near Mt. Vernon road - perhaps near where we were when we visited Mt. Vernon.

Rev. Mr. House of Waterville Congregationalist was here yesterday with 3 others from Waterville

one was a Mr. Nye - another was a student of an old acquaintance of mine.

Mr. Howe preached to the 8th 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 - Some 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 of our ^{Regts} Brigades - Vt. 2^d 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 attached 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.

Three 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. 2^d at ⁵ P. M. While in ~~my~~ Chamber word came to us that the enemy were advancing on the Mt. Vernon Road - Just then we heard the report of Cannon - the first since the 21st Vlt. There was a good deal of ^{had} ~~packed~~ ^{packed} ~~up~~ ^{up} our things, ~~we~~ ^{we} had them put in the wagon - I went to notify the Regts. on horse back - Otis was away scouting. Mr. Mordecai our Adjutant Genl. went to see how far 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 low price, distributed - No signs of the enemy were seen on any of the roads or grounds under our charge - So we subsided into our usual quiet - But it gave those few men a good idea of

8/12/1861

From: Charles H Howard

To: Mother

CHH-048

Head Quarters 3d
Brigade
Bush Hill, Va

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

Augusta Oct. 18, 1861

Dear Willie

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 Dunning & Turner's Store opposite the Franklin Hotel. Perhaps you will see mention of it in the Kennesaw Journal of this week.

I board at the Mansion House. Col. Woodard 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 waiting in his counting-room.

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, DeWitt, 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 Board meeting
with Joshua at the Baptist.

Bro. Mr. Haines hopes to go a Chaplain
of Cavalry. Dexter has come from
Lads - I will close with

Your affectionate Brother
L. H. Howard

P. S.

Under care of Dr. Briggs my health
improves.

L. H. H.

10/18/1861

From: Charles H Howard

To: Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-049

Augusta Maine

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

aid & dress as much
whether I get the Comand
ion or not.

Capt. Small is writing
to his wife - Otis was
anxious to find Sigsbee's
letter which he did in
the pants pocket - The
Pants were just what he
needed - but some were
worn ~~very~~ because of
the worn condition of our
pair - We are hardly
settled yet, Otis thinks
I better tent with Lt.
Miles the ^{other} side - He has two
Aids - The Dr. Mr. is a
Portland man - Capt Bar-
ber - I should fancy
even better but we could
not get them - We did
not visit the 3d Mr.
Sleepy tonight. We are going
to have a box or overstuff

at Alexandria O. H. W. Over
will find you the way
direct to Camp California
Howard's 1st Brigade
Alexandria Gen. Casey's Div.

My dear Mother
Love to all
I have at
length arrived at Otis'
Aid's. Came from Washing-
ton in the boat this P. M.
I got into N. Y. too late for
the 1st thro' train to Phila. on
Sat. so I went to Phila.
Found all well at Wm
Mericks - They have every
convenience in their home
at West. Phila. 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

Winter 1862

Dec. 1861

I want to send Mr. S. and Mr. P. to Mr. M.

did me good. Found Judkins
son of Lucy Bangor, ^{leaving} ~~as~~ ^{was}
leaving Church at noon.
He was very glad to see
me & I accompanied him
to dinner - left P. M.
service. I went to Mrs.
Greble's - Mrs. St. Noble
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
lovely woman & she sent
great deal of love to Mrs.
Howard. I left Phila^{del}
at 11 P. M. & got to Washington
about 6 1/2 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 four
detachment -

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

We have a good show -
It has been snowing tonight.
Otis has had me transferred
says he will make Genl
and that I must be

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.

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

He has not yet rec'd his Commission.
 Doctor is contented & John is a real good
 friend for him - The Seeds boys were in
 one tent together - all looking hearty &
 well. - That was a grand Review. I
 had not seen a Division reviewed & so
 this commuted for me to ride over
 5 or 6 m.s. towards Mt. Vernon - I
 attended Drill till about 11 & then rode
 over alone till I got to Third Meun. - I
 soon over - took Mrs. Sampson & Mrs. Stophy
 in a Carriage - a 4 wheel'd Chaise belonging
 to the latter - I rode along with them for
 both way - I then rode past a Regt. &
 overtook Mr. Whittington who had gone to the
 field here the day before. The father of
 Lt. of Cavalry who got wounded outside
 the pickets not long since. He was hit by
 8 Round balls, & has 4 in him now. He
 was taken to the 3^d Mr. Hospital being
 the nearest & by far the most comfortable.
 The line at the Review extended a mile &
 a half & we could see nearly the whole
 It began to rain a few minutes ago
 the first storm since the night I arrived when
 it snowed a little.
 I was glad to get the strictness - I have besides

Camp California
 Dec 22, 1861

Doctor brought the strictness

There only the thin ones - I had some other work on
 the tent & of course I am
 his boys every
 common reputation.
 Mr. Whittington has
 used the throat
 bandage but I
 am not well
 for that - Now
 was 20 feet up
 it was when I
 was 20 feet up
 The pain - Mrs
 going to visit but
 Mr. Whittington
 off a month's leave
 for this is a
 pleasant wind the
 rain drifting on
 the tent.
 Drill done
 with and I
 to my brother
 I am
 your affectionate
 son
 Charles
 Howard's Brigade
 California
 Dec. 22 1861
 today with
 from attending
 service with R. I. Regt. Last night a messenger came
 from Maj. Doule commanding Ft. Worth just above
 us to inquire whether he ^{this man} could attend Divine worship
 with us - A letter from this was returned to be
 was with the R. I. Regt. Afterwards the Maj. came
 up to our Hd Qrs with me & was here when
 Capt. Boker our Brigade Quarter Master brought
 in the mail. This was put in command of the
 Division this morning - Gen. Sumner is not
 getting well from the effects of his fall so not
 as we at first hoped. His first order was
 to put stop to selling liquor in another
 Brigade - now is -
 His services considerably from the command
 of the Division. And Gen. French of 3^d Brigade
 is an old Army Officer & full, some objection
 of being under one so much his Junior rank
 in the Army. In this acct. it was at first
 arranged that Sedgwick, ^{of our old Brigade} should take the Divn.

Howard's Brigade
 California
 Dec. 22 1861

Probably this will be the final arrangement
tho' I don't know who will take Ledwick's
Brigade. Wall like Gen. S. very well &
he is an old army officer - was a Col.
in Reg. Army & is now - holding the Brig. Gen.
place only during the war.

We did not get Owen for Dr. Mr. He still
remains with Ledwick - he was over to see
us today & rode up to Ft. Wood with him.
Ft. W. was built by our old Brigade & 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. Whittier & Capt. Jewell
are sitting by talking very freely.

Here I found to take supper - We had
good bread & butter - Applesauce of dried apples
& good chuse - We have good loaf-bread
of the Commissary - It is baked in Alex's.

We also had biscuits but they were rather heavy
I thought.

I saw Dexter Howard a few evenings since.
John Kinn has Lt's Shops over & I saw

was in command of the company at the
Review of Heintzelman's Division. His Capt. &
other Lt. were on a Court.

While writing the above a colored man was
brought to our tent by one of our Picket guards.
They both came in - The man says he would
go to Alex's to see his friends. He has been
at work for a man at Sumner's belongs to
a man near Burke's Station - says he receives
none of the wages - It is told here he would
not go to Alex's & back & give him his choice
to go there or return from here - He chose to
return because his wife was behind & child -
Aren - If they had been with him he wd
not have gone back.

I was sitting about Dexter & John - They both
visited the hospital with me. I found two of
my recruits there, one with measles & one,
poor fellow, and 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 Fulson of Mr. Metcalf's.

John said he would now organize a
Bible-Club as he was an officer - says

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

CHH-050 Howard's Brigade
Camp California

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. Sumner 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. Sumner 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.

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

My dear Belle

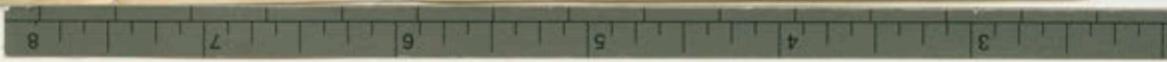
I was in hope to write
you a good long letter tonight but soon
after Tea Perry Lee unexpectedly made
his appearance and with him two youth-
men from Farmington - Mr. Caswell & Mr.
Cillsbury the editor. They were here last
night & today went to Mt Vernon having
stopped with the 4th Yr. Last night
they will stay with us tonight.
has returned to the 3^d Yr with one
of the Sergeants who come over with him.

John is making up the beds for
the ~~entire~~ company. Mr.
Whitting will quarter with the 2^d.
who has a tent near by.

You will have rec'd 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 & 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 near to one of the extremes

Of the 1st - sent to his home & then you will see some day -



some 3 or 4 rods from the canoe.
St. Miles always attends the Drills too.

I feel pretty tired & sleepy to night. I
have a grey horse - peculiarly marked
some call him a Zebra - others a
Leopard - I call him "Dicks". He is
large - was thin but is fast getting in
good flesh - He has a good deal of
spirit but is not very well trained yet -

I have to fear about him is that
I do not have courage enough. He
sometimes runs skittish.

He belongs to Otis - I have not yet
got my Commission but have been
appointed & await the pleasure of the
N. Y. Governor.

I took this paper because it lay on
my table & I thought perhaps I might
fill some lines - The rest on "best evening"
& 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 prayer with Rev. Scott,
Lowell read from N. Testament & Mr.
Whittier offered the prayer.

We have some numbers of poet

thought which would do more for
exposed soldiers but we have got
out to them & being always ready
do not get alarmed.

We had to have the Countess
changed throughout the whole
army owing to its being found out
by some Rebel. Your letter came
this P.M. & you are not pleased
especially as it tells of your pros-
perity. Good night. O.T.'s say, "Cheer
Up on you going to get down".

Friday Morn. O.T.'s has gone out &
the Pope sounds - I hear it echoed from
the various Regts. and the drums begin
to thum. I must go down to Revelle.
I was very glad you were having a good
union Prayer meeting. Hope you will get
great good by this means of Grace, if
others do not.

Again we have had prayer. Mr. Whitting
strikes up a hymn usually - "All praise the
power of Jesus' name", this morning.

I found much to my surprise that
Howard Rauslett was connected with
the Hospital of the 5th N.H. of
our Brigade - He saw me & called on
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. Whitting seems to think highly of you. Says he has had occasion to speak well of some of your academic performances but he was not aware you were any teacher of ours much ~~more~~ a brother.

Do you like 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 Potomac I think likely we may have something to do soon - If that goes wrong I don't know but we will write here.

It matters little to us for we had wharf drill as not but most of the troops are impatient for an action - Implicit confidence in McClellan however, continues & soldiers seem to await orders.

I got a good letter from Mother a few days ago. Lizzie & family respect us at Auburn. Now for Brookfort. Remember us in your prayers.
Very Affectionately
W. Howard

in King

P.L. Jones please to see the death of my classmate

W. Howard's health has been very low since he left school in July -

12/26/1861

From: Charles H. Howard

To: Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-051

Headquarters 1st
Brigade

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.

the windows & doors, to make it comfortable
for a hospital. Otis talked to the men
in 4 different rooms - offering prayer in
each - We left some books & tracts in each
of them. There are many cases of Measles.

We had a pleasant ride over
& found Rev. Mr. Adams of 5th St. ^{Cambridge}
here with his son who is from Yonkers.
They did not tarry long - I saw some
& delivered the counter sign to the different
at Col's & then came supper.

Our Prayer - meeting was very good. Mr.
Stow conducted. Mr. W. Otis, Capt. L.
& 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 bed - that is
laying on 4 mattresses side by side upon
the floor - Our Fox-skin robes are effective
to keep out all cold - Otis presented me
with mine. I wish I had one of those
flannel robes - We have put bed covers
over Capt. S. Reed & his bed as we journey
with much love to folks at home
C. H. Howard.

My Mother I have been entertaining
Charles has written you - I hope you
happy - I
now know
yell that
dear
the children
Knew you
I hope
the Savian
is precious
to you - pray
for me
off - Otis

Head Quarters
1st Brigade
Dec. 29, 1861

Since our Prayer - meeting this morn-
ing I have been sitting while the rest for
the most part have carried on the conver-
sation. Mr. George Patten, brother-in-law of Mr.
Whittington 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 61st Regt which
had not been occupied.

He & Mr. W. & Capt. Sewall & Mr.
Miles are taking their usual Segar - Otis
is social as he usually is. He inquired
when we first came in whether I had
written to you or to Lizzie lately. Said
he hoped Lizzie had not ^{gone} & would not
go to Auburn. Mr. Corwell & Capt. Pillsbury
of Farmington spent one night with us
this week. Otis arranged for 15 cords
of wood for his family.

We rose as usual this morning about
6 o'clock - I staid back from Revell's

by permission in order to take a bathe - I have no special duty at Revalla but go usually for example sake and to gratify the Commanding Officer.

We had progress as usual before Breakfast calling in the "boys" - (I mean the orderlies & servants). - After Breakfast we rode through all the Company grounds & inspected the men, arms, tents, &c. as far as we could by simply walking the horses thro'.

Before "Church" I visited some tracts &c. attended services with 61st N.Y. ^{Regt. 55th Regt} Mr. Whitting began the exercises but ^{the Kingdoms of God & his righteousness} had for an assistant Rev. Mr. Stone of Conn. who had friends in the Regt & came out to spend our Sabbath.

We sang during the service - the men formed in hollow square.

Afterwards I visited the hospital & distributed some copies of the Unitarian Banner to our Regt. Otis started with me but we went in different directions. He went finally to a hospital at a house near by & had progress

and by that time our dinner was ready. We expected Mr. Potten & so had some extras today - 1st Oysters - the Beans and Chickens - The Lent were "all put together" as we have it out here - The Beans took the place of potatoes which cannot be procured now. We have excellent Bread & this made out our dinner. After dinner Otis took a sleep & I was rejoiced to have him do so for he frequently loses some sleep & rarely makes it up. He slept till nearly 3 o'clock - meanwhile I carried some Religious Reading to the hospital Otis had visited before dinner.

Mr. Potten with the two Bath Regts. that were (now Simpson is Lt. Col.) arrived about this time. They soon went up to the Ft. (Watts) just above us Mr. Whitting with them and Otis & I rode over to Clement which we have taken for a hospital. (We have a good many sick now) - Clement is a perfect picture of deperdition & desolation but they are trying to put it up

12/29/1861

From: Charles H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-052

Headquarters, 1st
Brigade

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 Capts. 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.