

says (but Colburn Rev. Mob's aide de camp) ^{was}
 and solemnly that he would not interfere with
 his plan a diminish his force and then
 just as soon as he got down here out of
 the way McDowell's camps upon which he put
 most reliance was without a word of coming
 detached. This necessitated delay for other
 plans & preparations -

All on in bed except myself & John
 so I think I will close - You will probably
 be at home by the time this comes such
 seeds as I will direct there. Joe feeling
 quite well tonight owing I think to a change
 of diet. I have not been rich but we have
 almost all been troubled with head com-
 plaint - The oysters - eggs, milk &c on the
 best medicine for us. We have much
 very much to be thankful for - Tell
 me whether anything new occurred at
 College & all about the close of the term.
 Any increased religious interest - I hope South
 boys will not escape without a visit from
 the Lord for the breaking of both those who profess
 Christ & those who continue to deny him - With
 great love for mother & father & all inquiring friends
 a kind remembrance I am your affectionate brother
 W. H. Howard -

Old Lis Howard's Brigade
 Ship Point Va.
 Apr. 10 1862

P.S. My love to Helen & the children & the little ones - I was sorry to hear that
 Richard had been home - I will be glad to see you - I will be glad to see you -
 The sleep was
 waking tonight
 but will sleep in
 sweet
 sleep
 This is my wife
 My dear Willie

I think it is not long since I
 wrote to you but I fear I will not have a good
 opportunity of writing long - It is a moon light night
 after 3 or 4 days of cold north - east storm.
 We are about 1/2 mile from Ship Point which is
 now occupied by Meagher's Brigade - This Point
 is about 15 miles from Fortress Monroe by water
 and some 25 by land - I rode back some 6 or 7
 miles with the Genl & Mr. Scott this morning - You
 will be surprised to know that we had to get
 off our horses & run to keep warm - And yet the
 peach trees are in full bloom - a new sight
 to me - They are a deep & beautiful pink color.
 They are the only relief to the miles of pine for-
 ests occasionally interspersed with live oaks.
 We have got a large force on the road "con-
 sisting" it is said, having it done with small round timber
 cut the width of the road & placed crosswise -
 The entire surface for miles is under layer
 by "quick-sands" which give way as soon
 as teams begin to move over the surface -
 And depth of mud & mud frightful roads I never saw.
 You will infer the fact that the supplies of
 the army come this way now - We first landed

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

The news of victories at Island No 10 & the
learned we had us today. We hope it will prove to
be true. +++ Oysters are to be found here but
the soldiers take all they can get & we
have had one or two oysters - best I ever
tasted. Our troops are in bivouacs in the
pines. We (the Gen & staff) occupy a two
story house - one room below & one above.
The men seem to be poor & ignorant but
own 15 negroes & 2000 acres of land.
The soldiers ^{last night} took the only sweet potatoes
had for food - They were buried out in the
field - a custom they have here.

I tell you believe you do not begin to
know the horrors of war. I have seen many suffering
families today. The soldiers are obtaining & increasing
in spite of my effort to the contrary by good officers.

Not so much our Brigade as others. Then on two
or three leaps out on the main road from
Newport to Yorktown into which this one from
here leads - some of them are clear upon
Yorktown & are firing away with the cannon
at intervals every day - Whenever our officers
above the breastworks our sharpshooters are
used. About 30 wounded men will be brought
down here tomorrow. They will make hospitals
of the Rebel Quarters (log-huts) at this Point.

Our horses arrived yesterday. They were on
board the Castor which has 4 companies of the
5th W. H. has not yet got in - The horses were
delivered at Fort Mifflin & came round by land -
We thought of sucking our tail in that
boat. How Providential that we did not. Though
I believe had we been on board of her we would
have had her here before this.

We saw the first ^{regt.} paper today we had seen
for a week. I suppose people are looking
with intense interest for news from Yorktown.
Had not Government crippled McClellan by
detaching 1/3 of his whole command & the
rest of that, after he had got his plans all
mattered & had himself come away to carry
them into execution Yorktown would have been
taken ere this. McDowell was to land ^{just} above
& make a simultaneous attack. The Pendant (10

4/10/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-065

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

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

My dear Dellie,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We had the first newspaper today we had seen for a week. I suppose people are looking with intense interest for news from Yorktown. Had not Government crippled McClellan by detaching 1/3 of his whole command & the best of that, after he had got his plans all matured & had himself come away to carry them into execution, Yorktown would have been taken ere this. McDowall was to land just above & make a simultaneous attack. The President (so says Col. Colbon Gen McC's aide de Camp) promised solemnly that he would not interfere with his (McClellan's) plan or diminish his force and then just as soon as he got down here out of the way, McDowell's Corps upon which he put much reliance was

without <one word of becoming detached>. This necessitated delay for other plans & preparations.

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

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

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

C.H.H.

Otis is very well.

4
advice & you and we all will be much happier -
Don't have a desire to be a proud & selfish man but
let all who come in contact with ^{you} be aware that you
are at least humble and self-condemning -

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

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

I am sorry you meddled with these letters at all - That
is a very delicate matter. If I live I will fulfill in
person ~~my~~ promise to Nettie with regard to her letters. If
I do not live to return I wish you to return ^{to Nettie} all that
appears by the hand - writing to be from her - You may tell her
this is my direction if she ever mentions the matter. I am
very sorry if you have removed them or anything from
my little box except the note which I wished mother to
keep for me - Be sure & not tell any one that you are

Head Qrs Howard's Brigade
Camp Winfield Scott
Near Yorktown (Va.)
Apr. 30, 1862

My dear brother

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

This forenoon Chris & I went up near to Gen. M'Callan's
Hd Qrs, when the 5th N.H. is engaged in making
gabions, in order to minister the Regt., it being the best day
of the month when it is necessary to minister them in order that
the Parapall may be rectified. I was pretty tired when
I got back but I took a bunch ^(It is two miles or more up there) and then went to look Company
of the 5th N.H. encampment here and ministered the sick men
who were remaining in camp. I then came back and slept till your
letter arrived. So much for today. There was a report last
night that Yorktown was evacuated. It grew out of a slight
withdrawal of a portion in front of Smith's Division where the
ground had been partly sown between the Sharpshooters.

I hardly know why people have not confidence in
M'Callan unless it is that many read the U.S. Tribune
which has from the first been working against
him - You never would have reason to complain

of him as of Great. And this Army never went to rest a night or could be caught at any time of day in the way that Army was caught at Pittsburg Landing.

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

We are every day drawing closer and closer by regular siege - They certainly can't drive us for we are as strongly fortified as they and this is the way we approach.

Our parallels are made right in their faces and they hardly can kill any of our workmen. Our next parallel will be right upon them - and we have batteries of heavy guns so concealed that they do not know where they are - We have one ^{battery} of 5 100 pounders, and one 200 pounder which will rake Forttown completely with an enfilading fire and this they do not seem to be aware of as they have never directed a shot in that quarter - There then is a fair chance for the Galena if she has any virtue in her.

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

As to what you wrote about your relations with Rowland I perceive that the trouble originated with your suspension - He became convinced that you deserved punishment at the hands of the Faculty and perhaps incautiously said as much - Now from what he said to me I know he felt deeply for you not withstanding but owing to his strict conscientious scruples

he could not take the grounds that the feelings of a brother naturally prompted him to take.

Perhaps he was entirely mistaken in his conclusions and I fear he took a mistaken course thinking it for your ^{good} ~~course~~ to turn the Cold Shoulder a little, as you have the impression that he did so - If he did be assured, ~~still~~, he thought it would be the best thing for you - Now all you need in order to put the right feelings between you is to remember that Rowland has your best good at heart and always has had no matter what the outward appearance may have been. And further (and this is confidential) I will say that Mrs. Meryman & family always seemed to regard Rowland as inimical to them so that perhaps unconsciously to yourself you may have received some erroneous impressions from them. Another's respecting of a brother's language will give it necessarily a very different tone from ^{what} it would have had received from his own lips.

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

5
in possession of Nettie's letters, or let any one know it.
Get them back into the little box the first opportunity.
Say, if you should go home ^{in time} - I still hope you have
not touched those that were bound up there. If you
have any of Nettie's letters I shall depend upon your honor
of course not to read any of them or suffer any one
to do so under any circumstances whatever.

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

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

I fear I have taken up too much space in this
matter of my own - & very little account to you.
I got your & Mother's joint letter & answered it - I was very glad to get
the Catalogue away, out here - I met Howard Randall of
my class a short time after I got it. He was sick like
as I have been. I lent the Catalogue to him. He was
greatly pleased to get it - He has been promoted to
Hospital Steward in the 64th N. Y. Inf. he came out
a private in 5th N. Y. Regt. I never thought that his

6 lot (his clone of all my classmates) would be cost
so near to mine. I have had a chance to help
him a little which I have been very happy
to do.

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

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

My respects to Prof. Whittier, Chamberlain & Smyth
(Expt. Co.) if they inquire.

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

The board ^{under them} grows doubly hard as the ice increases.
Dexter says he cant drink the miserable water they have
up there & get his mouth & throat ^{is} terribly parched.

We scarcely ever drink any water - taking tea & coffee of our
meals sufficient to quench thirst. With affectionate regards
C. H. Howard

P. S. We are 21 miles from Fort Mifflin. There is some very little water.

4/30/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-066

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

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

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mrs. Meryman & family always seemed to regard Rowland as inimical to them so that perhaps unconsciously to yourself you may have received some erroneous impressions from them. Another's respecting of a brother's language will give it necessarily a very different tone from what it would have had received from his own lips.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Write often. Your very affectionate brother.
C.H. Howard

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

I have had an occasional
heavy gun since daylight
up on the right (near Fort Sumter)
but it cannot be the battle
has opened - We heard that
it would begin tomorrow &
the works are certainly near
completion - Heretofore within
3 days ago I had not visited
the works - Yesterday I rode
sixteen m.s. in order to visit
Big Bethel & the scene of
poor Creble's death - I should
like to write to Mrs. G. & think
I will - You know I saw her
as I came thro' Phil^{la}
I got Ellie's good letter just before
leaving home a day or two ago -
Love to Father - kind remembrance
to the neighbors - to Maria & Louisa -
I often think about the latter -
I see much sickness & suffering -
There are many opportunities for our
dear sympathy & prayer - whenever
we go in this world - Love being
G. H. Howard

Head Quarters Second Brigade
Camp Winfield Scott
May 2^d 1862

My dear Mother

Here it is broad
day light and we are still
on our old ground though
we breakfasted at 3 A. M.
& were ordered to be ready
to march at that hour.

The other came about 11
o'clock and since that I
assume you there has been
very little sleeping. ^{Regiment}
had to go to the different

Those of which were detached
& at work at different places
some two or 3 and some 7
& 8 miles distant - making
roads - gabions for the fort
&c. I was not out on any
distant errand - only to
the Regt. here - I returned
to bed & I think slept nearly

half an hour - I am happy
to say that my health is
quite good - I have recovered
with nearly my usual strength
and am in good spirits.
I enclosed for you or father
if he would like to take
it ~~in~~ the same manner as
he has the other \$245
with a package to Lizzie
etc, sent \$120 - Lizzie will
deliver it to you or father
the first opportunity - If
father takes it he may give
his note, which you may
keep for the present, unless
you have some objection to
this proceeding which I
will mention to me in your
next. I still have \$60
all of which I need to
expend during the coming
two months if I live.
We are in the good Lord's

P.S. I just stepped out of the tent thinking of

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

talking to myself with
him of his trial and I leave

5/2/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-067

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

Your loving Son
C.H. Howard

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

"White House". But leaving strategy to the
care of itself I will tell you about today's
doings in the immediate circle of your sons.
I hear a grand fire crackling outside & this
sustaining his part of the Convocation - I heard
him rant for the last. All the Company came
marchers of the 64th N. Y. just now - I guess
he is going to give them a lecture on allowing
their men to get out of socks - "stragglers"
divide and go round every mud-puddle -
They are the only Regt which does not come
some other way what we expect in marching.

When we first arrived here after organizing
the troops their position we cart about for
a site for H'd Quarters - We took a little wood
road on then there appeared to be somewhat of
a clearing & something like grass-ward. We
got half dozen men & some axes & soon
saw the bushes & trees cut away and as
we had thought to put a "fly" upon one
of the those houses - that was up & we soon
had it spread - Mr. Alford, whom I think
I have mentioned to you as furnishing the army
with Religious reading - was with us today & he
has a covered carriage - We have sort of

adopted him into our family - so we had his
wagon for use of H'd Quarters - He brought along
a basket of provisions with some of the "prepaid
coffee" (which is an inestimable luxury we have
been using for several weeks) and as soon as
our fly was pitched to keep off the rain
we took out the seats from Mr. Alford's wag-
on & reposed ourselves with good bread &
butter & meat. After that we almost all
though not all at one fell asleep as we
had Rencelle at 2 A. M. this morning.
I had 3 Boston Journals come - I began to
read but soon found that sleep was more de-
sirable than reading - Otis I covered up before
Ie about one hour on teams come up being
in the rear of the Division and since that
time nearly supper time we have been pitching
our tents - making our beds & attending to
other comforts of Camp - For beds we drive
down four ^{Crotchet} posts about 2 feet high - put a round
hard-wood stick cross-wise at the feet & head
of the bed resting in the Crotchet - We then pro-
cure round poles of the size of the wrist & make
& about 6 feet long then we lay lengthwise & close
together - We then put little pine branches upon

5/15/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-068

Head Quarters
Howard's Brigade
Camp Near
Cumberland Va

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

It was quite wet in our tent & so Otis had some 6 inch sticks split & himself paved or cordorayed (This word has become very common with us - in repairing the roads so much). I was quite sleepy when I came into the office tent to write tonight. Perhaps you will observe the indication of it in my letter but I have written more than I anticipated. We hear this afternoon a rumor that our gunboats have succeeded in getting up the Chickahominy & cutting up some of the Rebel forces. Hope it will prove true. We hear

that McDowell was here but think this is not the fact, though he might come round by transports from the Rappahannock quite easily.

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

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

Very affectionately, your son, Charles.

Genl. Howard's Brigade 1
Camp at Tyler's near Coal Harbor
^{Hanover}
New Kent County Va.

My dear Brother

May 23^d 1862

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

2 will tell you what I have not mentioned
in any of my letters that I have been
ailing again. This is the reason I have
written very few letters for a week - I was
taken with diarrhoea about a week ago while
at Cumberland - One day while at St.
Peter's Church I got pretty nearly well
and then had a draw-back - It was
a touch of Dysentery rather than diarrhoea
I thought often of my Freshman sickness
at Brunswick and your attentive and thought
how differently I should fare out here should
I have a similar regular siege of it.

I am today pretty strong and well again
have been on the quinine gradually for
some time - I only gave up my horse for an
Ambulance one day - That was mainly
on account of its beginning to rain tho'
really I suspect it was fortunate that
this Providential excuse presented itself for
I was too weak & sick to have held out
on horseback much longer without det-
riment. Since we got upon this ground
I have received a good letter from Billie.
Today we have been marching upon the road

to Richmond by way of the "New Bridge" - The³
latter is about 7 m.s. distant from us and the
same from Richmond. Our advance is along
the bridge - Franklin's Corps - Porter's lies this
side, I think at "Coal Harbor" (name of a River ^{flow})
Then comes Sumner (both of whose Div's march-
ed today Sedgwick ahead) then S. Keyes at
Potton's Bridge and Hentzgelman to support
him, making two Corps down there. Thus
we are stretched along the safe bank of the
Chickahominy from new to Potton's bridge
I do wish, to hinder our moving on
immediately to try again whether the Rebels
mean to make a stand this side of Rich-
mond or to attempt the defence of their Cap-
ital and this time the fact will be deci-
ded. Keyes has rebuilt Potton's Bridge and had
Pickett's 3 m.s. camp beyond - Our Scouts & some
guard has I understand been across new Bridge
but all these things I suppose you would gather
from the papers and I better turn to the more
private concerns of our military family and our
Brigade, Mr. Stuart proposes to start at 3 o'c-
lock tomorrow morning for the White house
there to take the boat for Ft Monroe & Baltimore.

4 thence right on without a moment's delay to
Boston.) He intends to come back about a
week from next Wednesday and I have
got him to put down a few items for
purchase for me as have also General
of the Staff. He leaves a good horse and
4 wheeled covered carriage, with two seats
for our use while he is gone. It will be
very convenient as our wagons are necessi-
tated to go in the rear of the Division
and do not reach us till we have been
in Camp from 4 to 6 hours and some
times longer. In this wagon we can carry
a basket of provisions &c. and have
it along with the Brigade, which is ac-
companied always by the Ambulances.

The new order relative to Whiskey, you may
have known nothing about, yet it is creating
good deal of a stir in these parts. Otis has
entered a protest against it - Mr Alvord
will tell you much about this - It came
from Hd Qrs Army Stores - I will mention it
again - None used here yet but it come up to-
day with great tribulation to our Commissary Mr. Bullock.
I am too tired to write more except that I would

enjoy much meeting you at this time
 in Boston and dont know but that I
 would try for a Leave were there
 not some prospect of an immediate
 action with the Enemy and after it
 either a repulse or a triumphant entry into
 Richmond - In either of the cases last
 mentioned I would not wish to be
 absent - Perhaps in some way I may
 see a clear path to leaving the Army
 as soon as we have reached Richmond.
 I did not intend at first to stay but
 our year - Did not wish longer to be
 absent from the Summary Lab, yet I
 hardly think it will appear consistent and
 right for me to leave - I only wait. I do
 not have any desire to go contrary to the
 indications of Providence and shall be
 contented to stay and cheerfully do my
 duty if it is God's will. Fuller wrote
 me the other day that I might be libe-
 rian he thought without doubt if I was
 sure of coming back. At any rate I
 can have my old room if I return

6

any time during the year as Perkins (of
Securiton) would be Librarian if I was not
and would be glad to have me share
the room with him whenever I should
come back. Wilson & Walth being so
to be married. Mr. A. will mail
this in Boston if he does not see you
then soon after his arrival. Otis is
very well in body as are we all. We
are dry enough in our spiritual condition
and yet the Lord is very gracious and
does not forsake us altogether.

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

Your Affectionate Brother

W. A. Howard

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

5/23/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Brother (Rowland
Howard)

CHH-069

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

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

My dear brother, [Rowland Bailey Howard]

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

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

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

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

The new order relative to whiskey, you may have known nothing about yet it is creating good deal of a

stir in these parts. Otis has entered a protest against it. Mr. Alvord will tell you much about this. It came from H'd Q'rs Army Potomac. I will mention it again - none issued here yet but it came up today with great tribulation to our Commissary Mr Billick.

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

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

Your Affectionate brother
C.H. Howard

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