Ditter in the dear Willie Athink à ind long time of say bed bollow her Mab's air de loup Man mil whenly that he would not interfore with just as won as he pt don har out of A. wy m' bowel's bops the trial to be mat reline was waterts an our of coming delicted. This recuritte delay be atten plans the sportions -all on i had west myney & John Marote to you but I fear dire not horsto good an A apportunity of writing long - It is a morn light night With gir 4 days of cold north - Sent Morne. We are obout 1/2 miles pour this Point which is wo nich I will dan - You walle haldly " Then accubied by Magher & Migade - This Vout be it home by the time This times much Wis about 15 miles from totals Mouros by water Leed and will died then . Tour fuling Vand tom 25 h land - Inde back som 69 9 juit we bright aving Ithank to a day Similes with the heart of Mr. Scatt this turning - Tone of hit. I have at her sich but we have i fuil be performed to know That ar had toget almost all has broutly cart touch - com-Tour horns truch to kup worn - And get the Hout - The cyster, - Eggs, mich te on The A leach trees are in file bloom - a new light 115 me - My excelst theatful puck color . wet medicing for us. As how much May another only relief I the mile of hime for-I got accountely tate shere with fire oaks . no wither bything her accurred at Whe have got a hope for a on the voor loon bollon till dont the done of The term, Sider orging " it i.E. having it dose with much trackers with with of the road & placed sold-win -Any wormand beligness hetend - I hope South The suter surfice for miles is under logset and weend say withert a with from the Lad for the unking of tothe then the half pills Why quick-hand which give way to more s as leaves begin to our over the restoce -And of the of mid And prother was men 200a kind terrentime Some your forthande bother big the cree refer the feet that the happies of 1. H. Hourd - y The army come this way now - We fort hard

hen. I was the first on the stepped on when then we have a haber free of all Kinds of thisping saft that of the logest dooff which and com of. The "figs train" with the heavy guing will protobly to louded tomorrow - as mones The lowings are projected to that sufficient applies Jule kind - munutin te Con be landed The road and as to bronshed Them the hege of yok time well go on - We hear that the Rubel books have have concentrated there & that Johnston is in Command. The news of rectoring at themed the 10 The bout ushed as Today - We lop it will poor to be true . + + + agelens are to be found to bot The beldies lite weethy can get a sor how had an a too messes - lest & som tasted. Our houps on a birrouse withe hims. We (The East thoff) accupy a two Ming have - on some leford & one obove. the men seems to be pour & agnorant had The loldier with The only hout pototong to hed for mind - They are brand and in the field, acadom They have tere. I tell for billing on Is not begin to Know the borrow of cor. I have seen more hopping founding loty - the bilder on rolling I presenting in that I song effect to The forbory by good officer .

of last balking here alab a last de land) Mut wo much our Boyade is others . Rom on two or those leops at on the main road pour Nouptin to York time it thick this and prove her leads - how of them on class upon york low & an fining any arthe the dawan I where sing ty - When anyour offers about the trestandy are those storting one led. About 30 and me and he traft don'then homorow. They will such habites of the Redal Quarters (log-truts) it this Rout. Our horas amurel lesterty. They are an brand the boston which has & comparing of the 5th h . # thes not get get in - The hours are aborted at Forhits Mouros & Came, round by lovel -We thought of maching on the in an that bost. How Providentil that is dia not - Hough I helien had on been on born of he crance have had here before this. Me have the first hopes today as hed me for a wick, Impon hatte on lasting with a turn laterest for news from Mestation. Hall not around crippled M'blollen by helaching 1/3 of his ouch command the hed at that, ofter to had got big plans dec matind I had burself and away to corry Them anto Execution Gostellown would here been when erether. A Dovall vor to lond, afor I make a multanen duch . The Plandet (10

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'I. & 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 crosswise.

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 &c can be landed & the road such as to transport them the siege of Yorktown will go on. We hear that the Rebel troops have been concentrated there & that Johnston is in command.

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

Oysters are to be found here but the soldiers take all they can get. We have had one or two messes - best I ever tasted. Our troops are in bivouac in the pines. We (the Gen'I. & 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.

* advice + you and we are nice to much happies -Dout have a desin to be a prover & selfist men but let all of a come in contact with the owner that you an at feast humble and self-condemning - . The cheip characteristic of the Christian is the alf-Jacoficing thirt - It is what the South himself unceasingly Examplified - But humanity noturally is self sufficient - We have got to battle against this latter . It is often I cloud clow, too much for me - I find I must constantly looke to Jems for thefe and sometimes I fear I have more of this thirt a bound up an I in reef. . This has just have reading some letter and ears he is amund at some of it. He says Rostand is avong - not that he does not love you a denie four hert good but to I have intimated, he think, toutand her anade a constate in his tractions of com, thinking to do good - Jeshops This will timely when his considers about it is a letter to san prometime but in the main I believe he will be that I Leve arithm. I are sorry gon meddled with Those letters at all The

I are very you meddled with These letters at we the is a very delicate matter. If I live I wice firefice in perm may promise to netter exit regard to her letters. If I do not live to return I bush you to about all that appear by the board anting to be from her - have may ter her this is my direction of the ever mention, the matter. I can wery romy of some have mention, the matter I can my little box except the note which I wished mother to kup for me. Be sure & not tell any one that you an

Hed I's Howard's Brigade Heav fortitona (Va.) Apr. 30, 1862 Tour good long letter witten 24th hurt and mailed 26th came just before divine. I have just finished reading it, got see with and porter from the office tent, brought it to our diving table which is ander a fly which has bask calls, making a very comfortable house being the portice to our test. (this, bost. Sewall & myself tent together). The have a fire no point - It is built a little one side today aring to the wind - have norm it has began to sain . This farmore this I went when to here. It belellar's Ha In, when the 5th h. H. is sugaged in making Gabions, in order to muster the Kest. , it being the last de, of the mouth when I is necessary to much them in ades that the Pay- Rall mey be rectified. I ever protty tind their I got back but I took a hunch and then went to cade company of the 5th m. H. Succerpment here and mustered the rick men whe won something in camp. I then came back and sleft till your letter onwid . To much for today . There was a report last night that "ortetown was soccuated. It gow out of a slight with drowal of a portion in front of Amith's Division where the printiges had being pintly seven between the Shap- shorters. I hardly know why people have not confidence in It blellow unlife it is that many read the R. J. Intime which has from the first been working against him - The never would have reason to Complain

of him as of Growt. And this army server event to rest a night or crued be cought at any time of day in the way that army was caught at Pettatung landing -If M'lebellen is not meddled with and the Snewy does not new away reddenty without attempting To fight, by the blessing of God, I believe Forktown sound as survey be ours as there is a sure in the heavens . We are every day drawing closer and closer by regular rige - They certainly can't drive us for we an as strongly the right fulings between your is to december that fatifued as they and this is the way we approach. Howland has your best good at heat and always Pur perellely are made right in their faces and they had had no matter what the outward appearance may hardly love till any of our workmen. Our next how here and far the (and this is confidentice) illel will be right upon them - and we have betteres of heavy gues so concealed that they do not know where They are - WE have ane of 5 soc bounders, and one 200 pounder which will rake Intetion comptete. by with an secfeleding fire and this they do not rean to be awan of as they have never directed a shit in that quarter - Theme there is a fair chance for the drater of the her any vertere in her -I should dread to be a liqueral ordend to hald look town with troops of the treve alen and fin that then. as to what you wrote chart your relations with Rowland I perceive that the bouble originated with your haspension - He became commende that you desend premichment at the hands of the tacuth, and hertigs incontionsly said as much - now from what he said to me I know he feet dapt, for gove notwith standing but awing to his strict conscientions scruples

Perhops he was satisfy mistaken in his conclusions and I fear he took a minitation course thinking it for your to lam the cold thould a little, as you have the interstion that he did so - If he did he assured, Siller , he thought it acued be the best thing for your Now all you need in order to put I will very that Mrs. Merymore themily always recover The regard Howland as inimical to them so that herhops unconsciencely to gauncely you may have account some moneous inputtions from them. Another's repeating of a withe's language will give it necessarily a very different the form it could have had received from his own lips . I will clow this by saying because how make some mitches in his treatment of you should not cause any aliention between. You might as ence judge from certain indications that you own mothe was not your friend - How quick both would such to gove aid if you shared be such or in court. See an a Christian spirit in it all . boufess to howland that truth - that Son have been musting that he does not love you with a bother, love I have the arouged him It may look hamiliating - but the Christian aught to be hundle bud you will find how tout will must you in the Dame Spart for he has the landest heat - Then take this may

a brother maturally prompted him to take

in possion of nethe's letter of let any one know T. And them back into the lettle box the first offenting-son, if you choused go have - I still hope you have not lonched there that were bound of them. If you have any of nothe's letters I chall depend us in your hour of course out to read any of these or ruffer any one To do so under any aicunstance, whetever. I hope this does not sound too much like suspicion - I have the fullest confidence in you that you will carry out my worker and I have only tried to make my desir plane, known to you so that then night be me mutake of hittee arts when her letters are you may tell his of you please that you received a letter from me with regard to there - that they are to be kept rafe that no one is to read theme - that you are to get all of them I delive there to her in case I never aturn - That I desind to do so suggest in case of a safe actum from The war - that my derive also is that my rave letters to her be given in suchange whencome the transfer that take place . I fear I have letter up too much space in the. matter of my and do very lette account to you. I got sour mother , and lite toward it - I was very glad to get The Catelogue arey out here I met Howard Rowlett of my class a short time ofthe I get it. He was such lake as there been. I least the least type their . He was greatly pleased to get it - He has been promited to Hospite Heiner in the 64th 7. 4. the' he loove out a knist a 3th 11, 4. Regt. I never thought thather

" lot (his done of all my dostmaty) would be cost fin a little which I have been very happy t. do. as I write I have rapid fing in front of ces which is the left of our line - It round, liking which indicates a change in the copiet of things . I may be mistaken, it is as for off. I withour that broke Howard had the syphone the He is still quite riche. I saw him sestender & gave white some orages, the begged for lemous which I cannot get : Raggles Keep is fast yetting will. Henry Turner is will was at workin the Franches . I John Keens had just been faid off stocked Setty or a make. My respects to Boff. Whittlen, , Wanterlain & Smythe Sylent. C.) if they inquire. This is a minerable place - this perimenta - low Surt- almost a continuous forset - level and unvaried. "It is cold - he have cold northeasters as you do a Maine. People are planting a little bit much of the " sail is not good. This has gone to muster The min of the Brigain in the Haspital. It is the rick & wounded that hatter, tellie, . How much they need are sympathy and they are The bounds, grow doubly hard as the five increases. Lister says to can't druck the recently other they have & up then I get his mouth & throat rive terribly parched . " The reach, we down any wate - taking ten + & offer of our

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 incontiously [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 spirt for he has the kindest heart. Now take this my advice & you and we all will be much happier.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I have find an accusione heavy que mice day light if on the night free Falton] fut it canat be the ball frag chened - The heard that of wonald began tomorrow t the works are centering notion 3 day ago I had not with The works - Joslanding Inde tixtue ms. no order to mil Big Bethet I the Rece of noor loveble' deather I should like to arite to allow. by this Divile - You Know I sew her A Came this Thile I got I Elle's good lette pust before Lecone them a day other ago-Love to Father - hind anuchance to the neighborg to marin Louisa. I hove thank about the tatter . I see much rickness Truffering -Then are many the struction for an depist sympathy There is there will be go in this world - Low long So H. Hours

Horal Lucitor Houses Brigge and Camp Writeld Scott My dear mother and the hand hand ferrit in house the light and we are still and and ground though ne brackfaster at 3 4. M. Twin arturat to be daily To much at that how ... The other cance about 11 1. Block and mar that I testur gove there has have hay little dechang, ling, had to go to the hifferity Those of which and detailar I at book at defferent places arms two in 3 and some 17 6 miles distant - Theolering way - rations for the fat De. I tors not ant on try distant mand - tril, te The kipp, here - I returned To hed & I think half muly

hends, hear mother, and Levay Whatforder hour - I am hoppy Station that song health is glad you could say as gave grite gord - I have reconned And he your & Wellie's print letter fach the the last I got prin Spritty nearly my usual Through , and can a good prints. you that save way not a way I sweloud for you or father great bary rety about up. I if the arrived like to take liked that some with for It the same meaner as but if ther is the truce when The has the other \$345 I ame to be called hence - to with a package to Lugen is the best time and I that this sent \$120 - Diggie will all my prend will to sed deliver it to gave an father it I that they I will vejuice in the are of the i The first apportunity - It-Sort. Ant we may all A the takes it he may give his note which you may be shand to a work much Rich for the present, unlif. longer he the world - if It to that the soid may you have some objection to They percending which faid give as grece to do well what we have to do - Jours will mention to suce the fore net. I still how \$60 Times I think it is much more fearful to live thing all of which I would to Typend during The coming To die - In fact then is the sony the subject would " Two months of I keve. presents itself of late the are in The good Sorts

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.

Then and part a mother blanket. (they being wet) Then come an mathrows, then a worken blackt - The for me tothe (who shey aparon wir bed) a Conficated letel blacket which is hand with atten - doth - Last of all on when-It was quite act in our test to this had Non 6 und that pet themally poved or Cordoraged This word has become very Common both us in repairing The roads to much) - I was gut shape when I come that the office kat to write tright - Perhops for once observe The indications of it is my letter but I have written mon than I anticipated - W& hear a samo That be hun boots have succeeded a getting of the Chickahoming renting of some of the Rebel forces - Aspe it will have true. We here the That Mc howell was here but thick there no The feet though to might come round by how the Ropphan ack quite Soily -Mong of our office, on aide with bionhea. On swallert beplain and a day a hort of al Yorketon -A had not been thought dangerous - He was a bollyn Grand & intented to be a Propitite proceder - Me hat off one bolond man to At. monroe this morning by boat - sich with the same. We got another on our way here - I with to Routand sesteday - The

the state of the s Bachial comfort we sugar tonight after tere , mile march in the sain. We have come into " Camp in a wordy just where we hoppened to the when the order reached as and about 12 mile from the londing on the Parmickey lace Semberland - Then an her M' Lellan's that sight's and then or I may say have about is our S sutin any - Troublin I hear mond for Sward from her to a lowerdy the white-house S which is where the Rail Road Crother this was Hun Reged with his books is hatty at theits " herend here hert leaved - hours but this is Shot mon thou 1/2 mile prove her - Going by " new Kut we thought come to Bottom thing Whin is one way by which we might Grofs With Chickahoming Swamp - Onbobly some I fend will be made it that point, which is S.; naturally impregnable and has been fortified is with with wole, - But I sures that the money Si budy of our forces will go round the swoup by the

"White Hours. " And leaving trategy to tote Con of trelf Inile tell for about today doings in the menedate and of your sond. I har a groud fin crockling outride this sustaining his part of the Convection - I heard him nent for the leve. Tall The Confine Com manden of the 64th h. 4. just now - I gread he is going to give them a lecture on allow then men to get out of routes - thogghdivide and go sound every mud- huddle-Whey an the only hest which does not some some then near what we spheat in leading When we first around here ofter orsigning The brits they frontion we can't about for a site for Idd min We took a lette word road as then then oppeand to be muchat of a dearing I something like gran swand. Me get half dozen men & man ages soon had the bushes I have and way and as we had thought to put a fly " when one of the than how - That way up Twe 2000 had it spread - Mr. Alrord whom I think I have martiand to saw as furnishing the tring with Religions reading - was with as Today the has a cound comige - WE how Est of

adopted him into an foundy - to ve backing wyon for use of Hil Din - He brought dang a booked of provision with come of the prepard coffie which is an instructle laying we have then using for reveal weeks and as som as and fly was petched to kut off the sain we took out the let from Mr. Alood's ung. and reproded our alous with good bread & butter meet. after that we almost all though not all at one fill adup as we had Reveille at 2 a. m. this morning. That I Boston founds anim - I began to lead hat some found that sheep was mon demoble the reading - this I cover ap before. In don't one free an toours come of king in the rear of the Division and sure that The any hippe time we have been pitching wartents - making one hers & attenting to Mar Omfats of Comp - Forheds we drive Arm four ports about 2 feet high - put a num had word Thek cross wise at the fast & had of the head desting in the crotchets - We then pro-Cun round poles of the use of the const make Istrut 6 fut long then we lay langthorse below Together - Wi Then but little him 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-abouts 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. W 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.

Ked 2s Howard's Brigade 1 Camp at Syler's near Coal Harbor "How they County Va. My dear brother May 23" 1562 It is about 8 o'clock in the Enning-los have just got our texts fairly hetches and our pole bed steads made for the night-We heppen to be upon rather wet ground the Time Jesterday we had a furious thower with thurder, lightning and have. Forme dampned sized mice the hun went down . No are on the Castern sige of some longs mie woods a fin has just been tindled which will help to day up the ground and the surrounding vapord. We have been Encamped for two days - (have we moved from St. Peters blucch which was a delightful place) upon the bank of the rickmond Took River Reil Road - at Lumit's Station 2 miles from the which choming - level the R. R. hudge acrofs this These is only 3/4 mile above Bottom's Andge - Oethops you will me Mr. Abord in Boston by when I satend to und this letter and he will tell you that I winted said high in Company with here. He

" will tell you what I have not mentioned In any of my letters that I have been aling again. This is the season I have written very few letters for a week- Iway taken with Drawher about a week ago while at leumberland. One day while at St. Peler's whench I got pritty nearly well. and then had a drew-fick - It was a louch of Dyssentery rother How Marrheak I thought often of my Freshman rechness at Brewswich and saver attentive and thought her differently I though four out here thread I have a similar segular need of it. I are today pritty thoug and well again have been on the geine gradually for some Truce - I only gove up my home for an ambulance one day - that was manely on account of its beginning to sain the really I maked it was fortunate that this Providential secure presented itself for I was too weak much to have beed out on hornbeck much longe without detriment.) Since we get upon this ground I have received a good letter from Dellie. Today we have been marching whom the poard

to Richmond by way of the new Bridge - The 3 latter is about of ms. ductout from us and the some from Richmond. Our advonce is the the bridge - tracklin's boops - Porter's lies this ude, I think it leval Horbor (nome of a Horem How) When comes Summer (both of whose Dis march-Ed today Isignick ahead) then & Keyss al-Artonis Ante and Mentyelmen to support him, making two boops down there. They we an Monthed along the hope back of the black choming from new to Bottom's bridge 1 12 mothing to hunder our moving an unnediately to try again whether the Rebels mean to make a stoud this side of Michmond or to attempt the despice of their Ceptol and this time the fact will be deaded. Regel hassebuilty Bottom's Midge and had Prokets 3 mis. cerifs beyond - Our scouts tobar quard has I understand been acop new Bridge but all there things I suppose you would gother from the popers and I better time to the mon private concerns of our military family and an Angades Mr. Altard propous to Nort of 30' clock smorrow morning for the White house there to take the Goat for It mours & Reltonen-

I thence sight on without a moments deleg to Horton, HE intends to come back about a week from nerby Wednesday and I have get him to but down a few dens for purchase for one as have also dueral of the staff. He leaves a good home and A wheeled Covered Comage with two het for our use while he is gone. It will be very concernent as an wagous are necessitotal to go in the lear of the Division and do not seek us till we have been Times longer. In this wagon we can long a boshet of provision to. and have In along with the Mugade which is as. Companied dways by the aubulances. The new order relative to Totakey you may have known nothing about yet it is creating good deal of a the in these ports. Otis has Ilend a protest agoinst it - Mh alord vill tell you much about the - It ame from Ha my Comy Polomice - Juill mention & again - none issue her get but it cause up tothey watte and Tribulation to de Commission Mr. Bellich. I outro tind to unto near except that I would

Super much meeting you of this Time in Borton and don't know but that 9 would try for a Deave very then not some prospect of an immediate action with the menny and after it sitter a reputse or a tramphant subry but Redmond - In site of the card last meetined I would not could to be absent - Perhaps in pome way I recar An a clear with to leaving the army as soon as we have Achere Richmond. I did not intend it first to stay but on sen - Did not wish longer to be check from the Semmary has ret & hardly think it will appear consistent and right for me & leave - I only wait. I do not have any desire to go controng to the indications of Providence and shall be contented to stay and then filly do my duty of It is had's will. Fulle wrote me the other day that " might be litra-Nin he thought without doubt of I was mur of aming bock . Thy any rate I can have my old row if I return

6 any time during the year as Plaking of Secristra proved be libraria of I was not and would be glad to have me than The norme with their whenever I showere Come back. Welson What bailing so to be morried. Mr. A. will mail this in Boston of he does not see que then non after his amival. Ohis is very well in body as an ac all m andry snort in our Philitical condition mand the fact is were gracing and Aver not forake as allogether Adding for men of four letter field with the spirit of love sholined soon and that the power thing wice comfat Andan you in all four labors Divice dore fin Offictionale hother h. H. Howard an percello the P. J. I rother respect this letter belonged to Another but is I had some exhibition that Son might be a Boston I put of the letter due to her the you will hand her this The

5/23/1862	From: C.H. Howard	<i>To:</i> 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 bed steads 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