

Auburn (Mass)

June 27 1862

My dear Mother

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

I consulted the Dr. to day and have decided to attempt the journey to Leeds tomorrow if nothing in Providence prevents. John will accompany me. The Dr. feels somewhat fearful and all here urge me to remain another week; but I know your desire and the Dr says there are not more

than 2 chances in 5  
of injuring my leg.

He says also if it is  
not injured and every-  
thing goes on well

I will be just as well  
off at Leeds as here.

If anything unfavourable  
occurs I can send for  
Dr. Wiggins -

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

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

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S.

Otis did not get  
side by going to  
Portland - even seems  
the better for it.

C. H.

---

6/27/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-070

Auburn, Me

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Auburn (Me)  
June 27 1862

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

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

Received from a friend  
a copy of the  
first volume of the  
History of the  
County of York  
written by  
John Gough  
Scot. 1791.

Charles, W. Howard

Horsham Woudch  
Fm Octo  
Leicester Aug. 26/62  
of O. M. <sup>Leicester</sup>

My dear Mother  
I should have  
replied to you before 6 a.m.  
& my horse will soon  
be on the train. I re-  
main in Leicester &  
shall ride back to Emma  
with Warren who is  
coming down to bring  
Emma today for a  
visit. I will stay  
till night & perhaps till  
tomorrow with him &  
he will doubtless take  
me to Leeds.  
I got up at 3 this

morning, had a good  
breakfast as also did  
my horse & started  
soon after 4 o'clock.

I feel well & no  
more lame than  
when I left home.

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

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8/26/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-071

Lewiston, Me

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Lewiston, Aug. 26/62

7 a.m.

My dear Mother,

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

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

Your Affectionate Son  
C.H. Howard

4 and were it not for the terrible  
stench which comes from the  
battle field I would much pre-  
fer to remain quiet today - but  
I fear our men may all be under  
siege - My own health is pretty  
good tho' my leg has not im-  
proved so rapidly as I hoped it  
would. Capt. Whitting was  
cool & brave under fire & acted  
in duty. We were very glad  
to hear that Young was killed.  
If you met him with respect  
I think you will find him a  
good friend - I speak in this  
way because I know his character  
& that like most mortals he has  
a good deal of vanity & needs to  
have it humored a little.  
He was always an intimate friend  
of mine - Please give him  
my love & tell him that the  
rebels failed to harm me this  
time - that I am gratified to hear  
of his success at Bowdoin.

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

Direct to  
Division, Sumner's  
Corps - Washington  
D.C.

P.S. The 20th Me. is with Post, who is in pursuit of the Rebels

Hd Qrs Division  
Sumner's Corps  
Near Sharpsburg, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> '62

My dear brother  
We were very  
happy to receive your letter yester-  
day - dated Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> - I had not  
received a single letter until yes-  
terday when one came from Harland  
also. You probably are aware  
that Otis & I have been in another  
battle the severest & grandest of  
the war. We came out untroubled  
by bullet or shell altho' constantly  
expanding & thousands fell about us.  
The loss in our Brigade was  
greater than at Fair Oaks &  
in the Division which fell to  
Otis after Gen. Sedgwick left the  
field, the loss is fearful.

Gen. S. remained after being  
wounded in the neck & in the arm  
until he became so weak from loss  
of blood that he could stay no  
longer. Capt. Whitting & I were  
near the General all the time & you

cept when sent away on duty, &  
we were all under fire for about  
two hours, the hottest kind of  
musketery & at the same time  
a fury of shot & shell. At Fair  
 Oaks we did not have the  
artillery firing as here.

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

Altho' I had had considerable  
experience in war I had never  
before seen such terrible sights &  
the heaps & rows of dead!  
You can discern when the Rebel  
lines were by the line of dead  
laying side by side.

And many of the wounded  
up to last night had not yet had

surgical attendance for the reason  
that there were so many, that with  
all the hundreds of extra surgeons  
who came from Washington there  
has not been time to get round  
& see all the poor suffering fellows  
(It is a great success upon  
the battlefield - Banks' old corps  
commanded by Gen. Mansfield  
(an old Army officer) fought on  
this spot & Gen. M. was killed  
right in front of where I am writing.  
We advanced farther with our  
Div. across an opening just beyond  
the skirting of woods in which our  
men are bivouacked then into &  
to the further edge of another strip  
of woods - We went up in 3  
lines, of battle, <sup>brigade</sup> ours was the  
3<sup>d</sup> & altho' we were exposed all the  
time to the enemy's bullets  
owing to being so near yet did  
not fire much before our left  
was turned & we retired to  
another position by order of  
Gen. Sumner.

It is a pleasant Sabbath morning

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9/21/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* brother (Rodelphus  
Gilmore)

CHH-072

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

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

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Were it not for the stench from the battle-field this would be a pleasant place & if we are permitted to lie

quietly here this Sabbath day we shall enjoy the rest. We have not moved more than 1/4 mile from the spot where I wrote you the note in pencil. We sent it by a citizen to Hagerstown & also got him to telegraph. Did you receive the letter & the dispatch? The letter from Otis to Lizzie. Did you get my letter directed to Farmington while you were there? We got a letter from Rowland to me last night dated so late on the 16th & saying you were with him. This was a great treat. It was the 1st letter I had got since leaving home! One came from Dellie also in the evening. Our tents came up yesterday. The 1st time we have seen them for a week. Week ago today we left Frederick in the morning & just at dark came upon the battlefield in the mountains - not in time to suffer any loss. That morning I believe I mailed my letter for you in Rowland's case.

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

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

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

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

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

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Came from Newport News - The  
other numbers I mentioned have  
copies - that is two Divisions each.  
Gen. Sumner has 3 Divisions -  
Frederick was not hurt - Hancock  
killed Richardson's who is not expected  
to live & Sturges has Ledyard's.

Was it not for the stench from  
the battle-field this would be  
a pleasant place & if we are  
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Sabbath day we shall enjoy the  
rest. We have not moved more  
than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the spot where  
I wrote you the note in pencil.  
You sent it by a citizen to Hagerstown  
& also got him to telegraph - Did  
you receive the letter & the dispatch?  
The letter from Sturges to Lizzy -

Did you get my letter directed to Farmington  
while you were there? We got a letter  
from Rowland to me last night dated  
so late as the 16<sup>th</sup> saying you were  
with him - This was a great treat.

It was the 1<sup>st</sup> letter I had got since  
leaving home! One came from Belle  
also in the evening. Our tent came

6  
of yesterday. The 1st time we  
have seen them for a week -  
Week ago today we left Frederic  
in the morning & just at dark  
came upon the battle field in  
the mountains - not in time  
to suffer any loss - That morn-  
ing I believe I mailed my letter  
for you in Rowland's care -

There <sup>are</sup> many graves of the  
10th Maine just before my eyes  
about 5 yds off - Capt. Ashe-  
mish Furber was killed our  
Fred, but I do not know when  
he was buried - He was a young  
man of a good deal of character  
& promise & has nobly sacrificed  
his life for his country.

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

I hope you are enjoying the quiet  
worship of God in His sanctuary  
today - and that you will  
make up in devotion for our  
necessary neglect of His Ordinance -  
Being now in season it is not  
likely that we will be in action again  
for some time at least. Love to all - Otis  
and much love to Mother & all - <sup>your affectionate son</sup> C. H. Howard

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9/21/1862

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* [Eliza Gilmore]

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CHH-072b

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[Missing first four pages. To Eliza Gilmore. Assume 9/21/1862.]

[Page] 5

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

Were it not for the stench from the battle-field this would be a pleasant place & if we are permitted to lie quietly here this Sabbath day we shall enjoy the rest. We have not moved more than 1/4 mile from the spot where I wrote you the note in pencil. We sent it by a citizen to Hagerstown & also got him to telegraph. Did you receive the letter & the dispatch? The letter from Otis to Lizzie. Did you get my letter directed to Farmington while you were there? We got a letter from Rowland to me last night dated so late on the 16th & saying you were with him. This was a great treat. It was the 1st letter I had got since leaving home! One came from Dellie also in the evening. Our tents came up yesterday. The 1st time we have seen them for a week. Week ago today we left Frederick in the morning & just at dark came upon the battlefield in the mountains - not in time to suffer any loss. That morning I believe I mailed my letter for you in Rowland's case.

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

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

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

Yr. affectionate son  
C.H. Howard

[Note: Capt Furbish was killed at the battle of Antietam, which occurred on Wednesday, Sept 17, 1862. This seems to have been written on the first Sabbath day after the battle, placing the date of the letter to be Sunday, Sept 21, 1862.]

Mr. Longley for the saddle? \$5.50  
was due him.

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

You will D. V. have Religious  
services in front of their Hall this  
morning or on next Sabbath.

Dellie will have opportunity prob-  
ably to send a very little package

he may choose by Rev. Mr. Pol-  
mer of Brunswick who is coming  
out as chaplain for Col. Sewall.

How is father this Fall?

Love to him & all not excepting  
yourself who have the greatest  
portion from you affectionately

C. H. Howard

Co. 2<sup>d</sup> Div. Summer's Corps  
Bolivia Heights Va.  
Oct. 4<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Mother

I have written to Rowland  
and to Della's niece writing to you - I generally give  
you each a turn.

Col. Sewall with his Regt. reported this  
morning at sunrise. They came in the cars  
last evening - came across the river & got  
bivouacked about 2 A. M. just this side  
of Skoper's Ferry. We did not know they were  
so near here, we knew they had been ordered  
here. This invited Col. S. & his Field  
Officers to Breakfast with us which they  
were glad enough to do.

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

Col. Sewall was first ordered to Gen.  
Berry's Brigade, but he protested so hard

that they let him off & finally sent  
him to Sumner's Corps & Otis has assigned  
the Regt. to Gen. Comman's Brigade  
which was the smallest in our Division.  
The 15<sup>th</sup> Mass. is in that Brigade also  
at Minnesota, 34<sup>th</sup> & 82<sup>d</sup> N. Y. - now 8  
in all. Dana's Brigade also has 5 &  
Brew's is quite full for old Regts. altho'  
it has but 4. The last was Col. Parker's  
Brigade who was killed at Bull's Bluff &  
had he raised it by special authority from  
the War Department - he had 15 compa-  
nies in two of his Regts. - hence other  
Regts you know have but 10.

Col. Sewall is posted up upon  
the Summit of Polivan Heights to our  
front & right from which point with his  
glass he can see the Rebel Pickets & with  
the naked eye see where some Rebel horse  
men took some of our men prisoner yester-  
day who were foolish enough to stray  
beyond the picket line.

You will probably have seen acct.  
of the visit of President Lincoln to  
this place. Otis rode by his side  
all the time he was passing our line.  
He visited Loudon & Tid. Heights  
in his company the next morning.

He told a good many funny anecdotes sug-  
gested by what he saw or heard remarked.

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

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

We have no intimations of a movement  
at present. McClellan was only put <sup>in</sup> <sup>charge</sup>  
of the defenses of Washington - under the  
idea he drove the Rebels out of Tid.  
but was not allowed to go farther.

I wish you mother to go to my  
Portfolio which is I think in my trunk  
& in one of the folds in a large sized  
envelope are my discharge papers  
from the 3<sup>d</sup> Maine Regt. (3<sup>rd</sup> <sup>th</sup> in  
number) which I wish you to take &  
send to me in a similar envelope  
of which father has a supply I believe.

The discharge has mistakes in  
it which I wish to have corrected.

Did father send any or money to

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10/4/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-074

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

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

My dear Mother,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From your affectionate son.

C.H. Howard



Dorchester for a day or two & have been quite uncom-  
fortable from it today. The arrival today was all  
embraced in an hour's time & nothing Mr. Palmer  
said was in bad taste - much of it was good for  
us all - His prayer was what we needed and Mr.  
Morris of the 106<sup>th</sup> P.V. closed with a warm hearty prayer.  
Our singing led by Capt Whittlesy was good - There  
were half a dozen ladies sitting in and in front  
of the General's tent. Gen. Burns was there who has  
just returned to his Brigade - He is not well from  
an affection of the spine. Is a good looking man  
with black whiskers which nearly conceal the large scar  
upon his cheek caused by a wound received upon the  
Promontory.

The General read a letter from Packard written  
at Biddeford saying he was well again but had  
abandoned all ideas of rejoining the Army. Since  
that Capt. Whittlesy got a letter from his wife  
saying Packard was sick with Fever. Do you  
know anything about it?

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

I suppose he remembers the days besides he  
occasionally gets a glimpse at the comforts & social  
delights about these kind of things. The day he came

we had him, his Lt. Col. & Maj. & Surgeon to dine  
with us. Tonight Col. S. called up before Sup-  
per and was thanking his friends for doughnuts  
we sent him some with cheese - There are great  
luxuries in these parts I assure you.

I have been reading Baxter's Letters. Rest somewhat  
today tho. my stomach &c has made me too  
uncomfortable to enjoy any reading much of the  
time. It is growing so inclement & this not being  
very well we have about concluded to take a house  
for the winter partially at least - Probably having  
the tents pitched near for day use & when the  
weather is fair.

I am in a house now visiting at the table  
with a N.Y. Tribune reporter. If you see the  
Daily Tribune you will often notice commu-  
nications from Bolivar Heights, some of which  
mention Gen. Howard. Richardson who is now  
here signs A. D. R. Newcomb who is also here signs  
W. From what Rowland wrote I judge my letter  
was published in the S. F. Journal and I have  
recently sent another to the same also signed W.

I tell you that you may get right at them if  
possible believing that you & my own family will  
be more pleased in their perusal than any  
one else.

I am sorry we have not got a school. Find  
one if possible. Don't think too much about the

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10/12/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother (Rodelphus  
Gilmore)

CHH-075

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

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

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

also signed N. I tell you that you may get sight of them if possible believing that you & my own family will take more pleasure in their perusal, than any one else.

I am sorry you have not got a school. Find one if possible. Don't think too much about the young lady. Rather read Shakespeare to satiate all the romantic tastes & turns of your mind & heart. I have a copy taken from the Rebels at Wmsburg Va which I occasionally devour when I cannot spend my leisure more profitably. I do not intimate that you do think too much of the young lady but only would contain you against the natural tendencies of youth of your circumstances.

How long will these Sophomores have to stay away? Congratulate you on the honor of being prophet - after Albert Howe one of the best fellows I ever knew & one of the best scholars in my class. I think that Capt George Patten does not borrow luster from his son-in-law. He is about as well known & highly respected out of the state as any man of Maine.

I was happy to get the Catalogue. Write just what comes to mind so that you send us a letter often. Glad you like your studies. I wish you great profit from them.

Your loving brother  
C.H. Howard

P.S. What a shame that Stuart has got round us again. We have heard firing nearly all day and hope he got intercepted in recrossing. We shall learn tomorrow.

C.H.H

P.S. 2d Maj. Gen. <Couch> <[torn page]> absent 30 days & perhaps will never return.

to appreciate the luxury.  
Our dinner is ready -  
Earlier today that we may have  
more time to move & get  
up house keeping before  
night.

Mr. Couch is very pleasant  
this Adjutant General is an  
"own Cousin" of Rev. Mr. Walker  
of North St. Church Portland  
also a classmate & especial  
friend of Douglass & friend  
& classmate of mine at Bangor.

Must hasten to close for  
pinner calls must be heeded  
by all - great & small -  
Love to darling boy & Grace  
not a little to my sister  
Lizzie, mother & father & Mr.

Charles

P.S. enclosed please find a \$100.00 Draft  
note from O. O. Howard B. G.

K'd in 2<sup>d</sup> Division  
Summer's troops  
Bolivar Heights Va.  
Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> 1862

My dear Lizzie

We were happy  
to get your letter for Charles.  
It's first took it but he usually  
has me open the envelope with  
my penknife and of course  
I discovered the extra superscription.  
However I read the letter aloud  
instead of it's reading aloud  
to me as he frequently does  
on the receipt of your letters.

It's I just returned from  
Gen. Couch's K'd in - who  
now commands this Corps.  
We walked down & back  
finding it a little muddy in  
crossing streets owing to last  
night & yesterday's rain.

When we got back Otho said  
I meant to have written a letter  
this morning - Has the mail gone?  
When told it had not he thought  
he would write in the 14 hours  
remaining before 12<sup>th</sup> when the  
mail leaves. But Capt. Withers  
very had some papers for his  
consideration & I remembering  
your kind letter to me & re-  
ceiving that Otho would not  
get time to write just slipped  
into the office - called for papers  
& saw this for in a letter to  
you. A letter from Mother  
same date as yours told how  
much she enjoyed having  
Jennie remain with her & said  
she would be lonely without  
him.

Yesterday Rev. Mr. Palmer  
Chaplain 19<sup>th</sup> Regt. & from

Brunswick Me. only last week  
preached at three A.M. 2<sup>1/2</sup>  
to each of the Div<sup>s</sup> or chose  
to assemble. Several ladies,  
wives of Officers, came & sat  
in and about the General's  
tent. Capt. W. leads the  
singing very well. If you  
see the N. Y. Tribune you will  
find pieces every day from  
this place. The correspondents  
of that paper are fine gentle-  
men & quite agreeable com-  
pany. One letter in the Tribune  
of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. (I believe) speaks  
particularly of Gen. Howard &  
his efforts to raise the standard  
of morals in his command.

We are going into a good nice  
brick house this afternoon &  
The cold & damp weather of a  
few days past makes us ready

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10/13/1862

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Lizzie (Elizabeth Waite Howard)

CHH-076

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

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

My dear Lizzie, [Elizabeth Waite Howard]

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

From your Affectionate br.  
Charles

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