How or Recruit, Service Leeds Dec. 14-62 Dear Brother John fother rependent to the Courses the found that Huldon - hed just sxpind ... The funeral will be on Widnesday next at 10 1' chuck - I with That for may get The word in alesone to as "To desmid your school Shunday night till shud. and go away but I con. not will defer my dehorture. Moland her gout down to mensa's Your Offictimate frothe

P. S. Fother recus rother Sober - Let us proy that This Providence may be profitably becaude by him by holand Tby other letation, who are thinking Too little of the under realities -And fore, Dillie, must be conful test your heart grow Cold & Jour Efforts for that dividle away to almost nothing - How bad you would feel some future day of you thould he compelled to think She influence this not and to bring father to

CHH-077 Leeds, Me

Leeds Dec 1st '62

Dear Brother, [Rodelphus

When father returned to the Corner after carrying you over he found that Huldah had just expired. [John Gilmore's daughter Huldah Gilmore Lothrop, d. 1 Dec 1862]

The funeral will be on Wednesday next at 10 o'clock. I write that you may get the word in season so as to dismiss your school Tuesday night till Thursday. I regret that I must go away but I cannot well defer my departure. Roland [Gilmore, Huldah's brother] has gone down to Warren's [Warren L. Lothrop, a cousin of Huldah's husband, George Lothrop].

Your Affectionate brother C.H. Howard

P.S. Father seems rather sober. Let us pray that this Providence may be profitably received by him, by Roland & by other relatives who are thinking too little of the unseen realities.

And you, Dellie, must be careful lest your heart grows cold & your efforts for Christ dwindle away to almost nothing. How sad you would feel some future day if you should be compelled to think your influence did not tend to bring father to give his heart to Christ.

Good Bye - C.H.H.

thought Iwould with and rest often welking for on have a two. Ohis Hopt. The www well. Mrs. forwee is not well. I Frond with theme former of K + 12th Arts. They have a club then now - dee from - have in mass. I they were kind trough In later one in - Mrs. Chase of Both - the hours tarper giving I had a pleasant wenning at mr. marrick's (the father ) met The two twens then I all the menick family - hos a Three unmorrier doughters. Heft my beet in Philes I stud toget it by symess today - It showed here sestentes offer beginning with raine but as the ground is not for se - it only produces mind - It was reported forlerder that Burnaide had crothed The river befor freshickobing hat nothing of it in the hopen - down Sett scarch any in the Con Thing Hight. Suft scarch any in the Con Thing, Hight.

Washington Dec. 6 62

Dear mother

I amived here sarly gesterday morning and sheet the day in prosecuting business as vigorously thereweringly as I was copable of doing. I deared up the difficulty about myself The mistering in" lifter going buck & forthe between the depotments several times - talking demost matterthy - discussing Dome - quarrieling a little being somewhat sonay bt Tunes and occasindly advoit having records reached and fur nishing data & Sor. dence therepoin - molling use of the never-failing lever of foronterism - in core

I found a letter here vaiting I happened to be acquainted he for the in which he tells with a high official the way me to they till I finish the to whose presence was blockaded trainess a I would have gone sy a doggen or more appli-Contas for a hearing. down river today of any rate. I have only huntere at the Bendes there was no money of processes and my proceedings. the Day Department yesterday & I was determined of possible dannot hay for my have the to finish up that busines so get my two months key. I is to four the army today. This thall try again when seget when I had settled the dificulty through with my letter. referred to - to Entire tatisfaction Whis neoming I have pur. of svery body - then aron onother chand a horse - rother one and from confilled to with ordinary on , erh in fillet to the V sale but on onson them from for pe thousand in the city - He Id filed to but none of sie oppen to cetify in any of the score of be lemoskably promising. Thele hopes we have furnished that pay for 105 to 125 dollars he did not receive pag in lieu probably. of forage for the horses the ed I am unting in Mary Separtment after they were dead I before their les kuchers of no. Farwell - Thos places were supplied by others, on my way back from the forde

12/6/1862	From: C.H. Howard
CHH-078	Washington, D.C.

Washington Dec 6th, '62

Dear Mother,

I arrived here early yesterday morning and spent the day in prosecuting business as vigorously & perserveringly as I was capable of doing. I cleared up the difficulty about myself and the "mustering in" after going back & forth between the departments several times - talking almost incessantly - discussing some - quarreling a little - being somewhat fancy at times and occasionally adroit - having records searched and furnishing data & evidence therefrom - making use of the never failing lever of favoritism - in case I happened to be acquainted with a high official the way to whose presence was blockaded by a dozen or more applicants for a hearing.

I have only hinted at the processes and my proceedings. I was determined if possible to finish up that business so as to join the army today. But when I had settled the difficulty referred to - to the entire satisfaction of everybody - there arose another one I was compelled to write to Otis and <wait for> an answer in the city. He had failed to certify in any of the score of papers we have furnished that he did not receive pay in lieu of forage for the horses <received> after they were dead & before their places were supplied by others.

I found a letter here waiting me from Otis in which he tells me to stay till I finish this business or I would have gone down river today at any rate. Besides there was no money at the Pay Department yesterday & I cannot pay for my horse till I get my two months pay. I shall try again when I get through with my letter.

This morning I have purchased a horse - rather an ordinary one perhaps. I selected him from several thousand but none of them appears to be remarkably promising. Shall pay from 115 to 125 dollars probably.

I am writing in Navy Department by kindness of Mr. Farwell - was on my way back from the corral & thought I would write and rest after walking for an hour or two. Otis & Capt W. were well. Mrs. Farwell is not well. I board with them corner of K & 12th Strts. They have a club there now - all from Maine or Mass. & they were kind enough take me in. Mrs. Chase of Bath - the house keeper giving up her bed for me.

I had a pleasant evening at Mr. Merrick's (the father) met the Goodwins there & all the Merrick family two or three unmarried daughters. I left my belt in Philad but expect to get it by express today. It snowed here yesterday after beginning with rain but as the ground is not frozen - it only produces mud. It was reported yesterday that Burnside had crossed the river below Fredericksburg but nothing of it in the papers. I am well - made up my sleep last night. Slept scarcely any in the cars Thurs. night.

Love to Father & Dellie. Affectionately, C.H. Howard

in voin their come our tim to Jun. Forweel's office in The Dravy Stepatiment when Jour writing . Mar. Longley is here - I don't knew whether it is Jorich a the one who lives in Greene - I think the former -He to broduced hunself to me & There me he had office them me Jan with to Send any pockage or box to us or if they one in their wisher to send to their brunds, let them direct (are Maine State ageners) and they wiec be morelekely get it - The agging are constantly Sam. Terrer son of Judge J. is in The Surplay of the againen-Day Deptrut. again and J.I do not get my due, today thank I thall leave my account,

Washington Drc. 8 62 My dear Mother The may letter to Dillie go will see how I spech yesterday huming. The the rening I heard be. Eurley hand upon 6the verse 14 the Chap. of Nev. a Mustionory Service, at the close of which a collection was taken. Mrs. Whave I the house keeper at The Manie Whit When I bound ! and Turs. Runball wife of one of the bounders who were classind of Routend's in leollige and his soone - mate the first time of his treshmon geor ( Mr. him. ball is a blerk in the 2ª Audite Office - Mrs. R. was the daughter of Mr. Tinno - Book seller at Augus to Mr. \_ there ladies accompanied

me to Church. Dr. 4. a Marky here unose for 2003 writes and brien is rather "heavy" in his mour sestender the was hartly so well as a well as here the the of writing . But he sewed when I arrived and was troubled to wake up more there his wont. with with ache in action. Her line girt is write but nothe while urging the Claims of the great Cause of Municous. This of them, den than to their is the President's Church but meals. Mr. F. corris up their food - The This. Kuildle have he seldone attends and never in the Svening I believe. I a little boy about 2 years old. Son here. Casey at church but This morning is dear, cold , crisp. Theatthey" using Keed. Mr. Rid not speak with him .... Stockton's word, which he applied WE got home befor g i'dock to yesterday. I have been to the and I went up into mr. Kuntall's some when I sheat the Euround. Express offices to inquire for my helt which Heft in Philed but of the time very pleasantly - talking our bollege leministences comother souther that has bept. Thillesis Sa de which was to come from and bruching apon many a ti Philet has arrived set. Jolio. Rubyets - the this wife have just wont to the Day Department had bun reading Les Muserably and this gst some answer as last veck fumithed a topic for Considerable Comno money" - I made out my ment. They like the work much. accounts router holf on how Mrs. Farmele is not well - Has

with her. Porweee the find & offers to advonce me the money whenh, I can hay you may have and so take it from the Department a non is there is buy to the maning. I that arrange to have \$ 25 Sent to Fother by which You Can take up the coste which Igene him when I come We her this morning that Brouks has landed upon the South side of the yours River - If true Sou will have got the news by Selegraph fefor for read this. un. Touglay Talks of going up to the the 23 me. thick, Shear, The thee in Jud. about 14 miles about broughtown - To they are not to accompany Books If ther. L. goes Dinie read a letter to Gcor. Poroto to black busti, an

6 Saturday to ascertain whether he was there at Alex" thinking Smight possible call to see him before I wind the army, I have not get head from him - in reply . Recht, he has gone home. Hope you sujayed a good tobbeth Sesterday I that I shall get some account of it soon by letter. an you alone - Has Betrey gon? Chur Offictionate Son W. Howard

12/8/1862	From: C.H. Howard
CHH-079	Washington, D.C.

Washington Dec. 8 '62

My dear Mother,

In my letter to Dellie you will see how I spent yesterday morning. In the evening I heard Dr. Gurley preach upon 6th verse 14th Chap of Rev. a Missionary Sermon, at the close of which a collection was taken. Mrs. Chase (the house keeper at the Maine Club where I board) and Mrs. Kimball wife of one of the boarders who was a classmate of Rowland's in College and his room-mate the first term of his Freshman year (Mr. Kimball is a clerk in the 2d Auditor's office). Mrs K. was the daughter of Mr Ferris - book seller at Augusta Me. - these ladies accompanied me to church. Dr. G. a Presbyterian is rather "heavy" in his manner as well as his style of writing. But he seemed to wake up more than his wont while urging the Claims of the great cause of Missions. This is the President's Church but he seldom attends and never in the evening I believe. I saw Gen. Casey at Church but did not speak with him.

We got home before 9 o'clock and I went up into Mr. Kimball's room where I spent the remainder of the time very pleasantly - talking over College reminiscences somewhat and touching upon many <othersubjects. He & his wife have just been reading "Les Miserables" and this furnished a topic for considerable comment. They like the work much.

Mrs. Farnwell is not well. Has been unwell for 2 or 3 weeks and yesterday she was hardly so well as when I arrived and was troubled with tooth-ache in addition. Her little girl is well but neither of them come down stairs to their meals. Mr. F. carries up their food. Mr. & Mrs. Kimball have a little boy about 2 years old.

This morning is "clear, cold, crisp & healthy" using Rev. Mr. Stockton's words which he applied to yesterday. I have been to the express offices to inquire for my belt which I left in Philada. but neither that nor Capt. Whittlesey's saddle which was to come from Philada. has arrived yet. I also went to the Pay Department but got same answer as last week "No money". I made out my accounts & waited half an hour in vain & then came over here to Mr. Farwell's office in the Navy Department where I am writing. Mr. Longley is here. I don't know whether it is Josiah or the one who lives in Greene. I think the former. He introduced himself to me & told me he had often seen me & knew my father. I find it was William.

If you wish to send any package or box to us or if any one in Maine wishes to send to their friends, let them direct care Maine State Agency, Washington D.C. and they will be more likely to get it. The Agency are constantly sending things to the Army. Sam Tenney son of Judge T. is in the employ of the Agency.

I am going soon to try the Pay Department again and if I do not get my dues today I think I shall leave my accounts with Mr. Farwell who kindly offers to advance me the money whereby I can pay for my horse and so take it from the Department as soon as there is any in the Treasury. I shall arrange to have \$25 sent to Father by which you can take up the note which I gave him when I came away.

We hear this morning that Banks has landed upon the South side of the James River. If true you will have got the news by Telegraph before you read this.

Mr. Longley talks of going up to see the 23d Me. Which, I hear, is still in Md. About 14 miles above Georgetown. So they are not to accompany Banks. If Mr. L. goes I will send a letter to Oscar.

I wrote to Clark Curtis on Saturday to ascertain whether he was still at Alex. Thinking I might possibly call to see him before I joined the Army. I have not yet heard from him in reply. Perhaps he has gone home.

Hope you enjoyed a good Sabbath yesterday & that I shall get some account of it soon by letter. Are you alone? Has Betsey gone?

Your Affectionate Son. C.H. Howard

I look Tea lest society with hur. Sompson of Mr. Healt's who was formely from Maine - (Vossolbero). Mrn. J. had been at alers. redenty freen Clock bustis who the huid is looking well but is consider why lame time get his descharge ritic a fortught. I goit not get an apportunity to vesit him but got a letter à currer to a fai lure, Invote him, The whole army is here and probably there will he a tempie incounter Tomorrow as it is now under should we on all to cross sight in the face of the many here at Frings burg they found out a mused That Bunside was going to i to flork There by going down 1 had moved considerable of the force down there, to the plan is changed

The set of formined at this place - found the At happen - no, he cause out to prect me and then we want to the happen lible & them I greated ind lest of the Ploff - Captons Matthe be Smith , lienty. Shison & atwood) who Swelcomed me cordially - bapt thatthe glow was hucking at The depot got me a home to ride up - " Will not take the one pour Workage Fut meeting beg Booker bought a Sith the was down have with the laldwell.

Frelishert the Suppor of min Cakey Fosture you as Thad sut Saten a mond me I a'doch the moning when I left 16. Had good butter & nonce Pleserves for force. He first thing this will was that he had just contractingi that he hopid swould not onice till lonionow night as he expected a battle tomorrow I he would Madly have me Escape it. But your see movement hus ordered otherwise - all for the best I doubt not - loud I fed no regret that I came today - On the When hand I are confident I Should have fell iteratione of I had not come to than the

daugen thankly incedent to a bittle, with my Concrade, & pother. Lone very well - never belt better - Had I read the lette I though not have Come down today for he says he wrote for me The attend to some Grouds and to they till got pay for the hones - that the letter will be opened by Leaves I the business fintherly atted. Ed to - Mr, forwell would not alan me to pay anything of their club rod have not been on sylense. Last night I slept with Jour, Taury Agot up at 5 this moning - the Hear boat was a poor one - Growind I de that of leats - We reached liquia Ref about 1 P. M. I sat waiting the I thing on a barrel by the side of Sen. Doubleday Then to a point Two miles from here,

I Bumide is released to out Aneral them if posto te and we Know not findly what the plan till be get. This has now gone to your Immer's H'd In - Went away at y V. M. ofthe hoving a - bith with me about home, my journe, Affairs here, & c. He will bring tack the quice word. The Lord will quide us and you will know The unit of the attack and potally its having upon the Con the or fate (using a word that I do not like) of your tows - tate is the dealingd had with as and with this large & this only it is a good word word wough. a ton arme e feel are ar in the ha its of a less beneficient thereifue

goodness he deveded her there. ter to us dad also tought that all the officers of this world an monthed by this will and mon than the that all things work logether for the good of-Then that love Him - how Lafe and heaceful Finen lifty Ine may be snew amid The peris A humel of wor - yes, and amid affliction, when those are love an latter four us. Oto looks fleshy & hearty they he is very vell - to a theeful - The have stones - one in the sterter of our Subley tents - I found a bid pracy for me ju " wacaled by a mount Repair - I had bought a mice have motion 1 Some Denney gave me a pullow, which to Ster with the and a ling wing not necessary at at a compart of the first with show a negro bay around in the and the and the start of the start the start o

## 12/10/1862

# From: C.H. Howard

CHH-080

H'd Qr's 2d Divn. Wednesday Camp at Falmouth

H'd Q'rs 2d Divn. Wednesday Dec 10 1862 Camp at Falmouth

My dear Mother

Just at dark tonight I arrived at this place. Found Otis at Supper. No, he came out to meet me and then we went to the supper table & there I greeted the rest of the staff (Captains Whittlesey &, Smith, <Lienty>, Stinson & Atwood) who welcomed me cordially. Capt Batchelder was luckily at the depot & got me a horse to ride up. I did not take the one from Washington but meeting Col Barker bought a better one (had to pay \$15) of him <> injured, which I knew, which was down here with Gen. Caldwell.

I relished the supper of Indian cakes, I assure you as I had not eaten a morsel since 7 o'clock this morning when I left W. Had good butter & some preserves for sauce. The first thing Otis said was that he had just written Lizzie that he hoped I would not arrive till tomorrow night as he expected a battle tomorrow & he would gladly have me escape it. But you see Providence has ordered otherwise. All for the best I doubt not. And I feel no regret that I came today. On the other hand I am confident I should have felt dissatisfied if I had not come to share the dangers & hardships incident to a battle, with my comrades & brother. I am very well - never felt better. Had I rec'd Otis' letter I should not have come down today for he says he wrote for me to attend to some errands and to stay till I got pay for the horses. But the letter will be opened by Hages & the business properly attended to. Mr Farwell would not allow me to pay anything at their Club so I have not been on expense. Last night I slept with Sam Tenney & got up at 5 this morning. The steamboat was a poor one - crowded & destitute of seats. We reached Aquia area about 1 P.M. I sat waiting upon the platform car till two P.M. & then rode <?thing> on a barrel by the side of Gen. Doubleday <&> others to a point two miles from here.

I took tea last evening with Mrs. Sampson at Mr. Hall's who was formerly from Maine (Vassalboro). Mrs. S. had been at Alexa. Yesterday & seen Clark Custis who she said is looking well but is considerably lame & will get his discharge within a fortnight. I did not get an opportunity to visit him but got a letter in answer to a few lines I wrote him.

The whole army is here and probably there will be a terrific encounter tomorrow as it is now understood we are all to cross right in the face of the enemy here at Fredericksburg [Virginia]. They found out or surmised that Burnside was going to <attempt to> flank them by going down <[torn page]> and moved considerable of their force down there, so the plan is changing. Burnside is determined to out-general them if possible and we know not finally what the plan will be yet. Otis has now gone to Gen Sumner's H'd Q'rs. Went away at 7 P.M. after having a talk with me about home, my journey, affairs here, &c. He will bring back the final word. The Lord will guide us and you will know by Telegraph before this reaches you the result of the attack and probably its bearing upon the condition or fate (using a word that I do not like) of your sons.

Fate is the dealing of God with us and with this sense & this only it is a good word enough. Often would we feel were we in the hands of a less beneficent & merciful Being! But as God in His infinite goodness he revealed his character to us and also taught <us> that all the affairs of this world are moulded by His will. And more than this that all things work together for the good of those that love Him. How safe and peaceful & even happy we may be even amid the perils & tumult of war - yes, and amid afflictions when those we love are taken from us.

Otis looks fleshy & hearty & says he is very well - seems cheerful. We have stoves - one in the center of our Sibley tent. I found a bed ready for me just vacated by a Tribune Reporter. I had bought a nice hair mattress, \$3.50. Sam Tenney gave me a pillow, which I took as a gift & a luxury not necessary but acceptable. Capt. W & I share a negro boy named <"?n">. I tent with the Aids <[torn page]> Otis. Otis (it is <[torn page]>) was appointed Maj. Genl. With 14 others but then suspended with these until a certain law should be changed and which limited the number of Maj Gens.

Much love to Dellie, to father, to Rowland, to Roland A & family, Louisa & remember me kindly to the neighbors. And may the Lord bless you with the presence of the Holy Spirit to comfort, cheer & strengthen you in every duty. This is the prayer of your loving son.

C.H. Howard

A We What H'd I's 2ª bivision My dear Mother n another batter lister \_ 2xpoud and and the formen a action till ofthe dark toingth. The Gord has kulled in ligan Olis true tall the staff. II-Quind a minade that they way I was hit by a kine of shell in the calf of the leg - It ton off a portion of my nulles but but did not make a deep wound It brussed the pleste a little but It. only inconvenience is a little somess - We are in a house with how lastin longth who have steg-Ed here during all the commanding. their roof & upper rooms have been herforstit by Common halls. Mrs. Fitzgerald in the lat the time to me the inde a lownit my nother That I had protected a

definalist fild work on sevent your all. It is violenth, "Secertin 4 latter it all and, the is of aven gratful for protection. Lugs there will never ha Union again - the and leaft, We are descusting . I of course and very tired . It is after 9 P. M. Our success in front of bur forter is mall the hold the ground we tak but were not able to take the Repue breast works when the hayth ? The destruction of life has hun is fronte in the Extreme and mon when was side than that of the meny - hru. leatdwall - leit broug ! bol miles I leve Mchun all the commander of an ald thigh ade have been wounded, low? half of our die, was slight ? wounded - This has come tacks I are love had projen - the lists. Kneeling wat us, WE find thankling that all Lord has saved welling matteretur por firm any its form an stowards

#### 12/13/1862

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-081 H'd Qr's 2d Division Fredericksburg Va

H'd Q'rs 2d Division Fredericksburg Va Dec. 13th 1862

My dear Mother,

We have been in another battle today - exposed during most of the forenoon and this afternoon. Our Divn. under fire & in action till after dark tonight. The Lord has shielded us again - Otis & me & all the staff. It seemed a miracle that Otis was not hit at all nor his horse.

I was hit by a piece of shell in the calf of the leg. It tore off a portion of my rubber boot, ditto my pants, drawers, & skin but did not make a deep wound. It bruised the flesh a little but the only inconvenience is a little soreness. We are in a house with two ladies tonight who have stayed here during all the cannonading. Their roof & upper rooms have been perforated by cannon balls.

Mrs. Fitzgerald is the lady & she said to me she wished me to write my mother that I had protected a defenseless old woman seventy years old. She is violently "secesh" & talks it all out. She is of course grateful for protection. Says there will never be a union again. She and Capt. W are discussing. I of course am very tired. It is after 9 P.M.

Our success in front of our Corps is small. We hold the ground we took, but were not able to take the Rebel breast-works upon the heights. The destruction of life has been fearful in the extreme and more upon our side than that of the enemy. Gen Caldwell, Col Gross, Col Miles & Gen'l McKim - all the commanders of our old Brigade - have been wounded. Gen Sully of our Div was slightly wounded. Otis has come back & we have had prayers - the ladies kneeling with us. We feel thankful that the Lord has saved us.

May He relieve you from anxiety the prayer of yr affectionate Son. C.H. Howard

6 ½ A.M. Dec 14 Sabbath Our troops i.e. Divn. were relieved and are in town. Otis is gone to see Gen. Sully

Morning Dec. 14.

All well. Good sleep. Burnside attacks again at 10 a.m. Love to all. C.H.H.

Fredericks burg Va. Fredericks burg Va. Fredericks burg Va. Drc. 14, 1862 When the willie as you see my letters to mother and as I have title time to Market for the former of have not write sxapt where too tind I have not written you since my arrival with the army. I wree not repeat what I have written home . . . It is Sallathe weining and , thank kind, we have sure no fightin the Phone has been picket firing preguently and when I wrote mother that Edemany we wan anticipating The Renewdend to Duppert Willer totag at 11 a. m. and I comin the order touch of our Bright Commenders to move to the left lite in pristing to support as above - They win then before 11 a. Mi, But as we Tracted, reconnoitering in front, visiting general, and othervin as usual passing the truce no order came to more neither did here. W. advance - In fact the Marks queral, did not come back from one, the Sivir when they were bucking Coursed at him, Burnins Hil mi the this afterhoon . To be came to this house which stand, next to the one where we stept last night and which we relected this moning for Hd I'm chunch we reaccin age for methodet Church - The compets an

" down and furniture all here. Jam writing in a block-book which has bun partigety filled with records of the Quadenty Conference. You angelt to we the fine librories that have been without to destruction & deft in this city. Find an wormant would an piscate there and sell theme at auction. Downed replanish the libraries of my the porter from destruction. It is so much of a lask to give a fuel account of a good battle mich as we fought i cole taking . That I have a letter to the plass about the first day y a note to mer Gilman telling to pour it to your credit if he sow fit to publish - I sent directly to him become it is watte so mid men to be new. I sent him onother latter trate, The'ndgiving any delaits of Stenday - So I think I will write another of I can sport to do so. This "waning - This moment we for sending out 5 Regt, to relieve byter pickets - two of his trijets which took our places thing that night. hen and that the main tattade well be made nome where also - frigel, + Fing an the and have not crossed the niner - Some of Hooker at least The 3 deps +D. Think custer bir. were not sugerid or under fin at all - There frish hospi will probably be sent to the attack when

The right flait and we will not have to fight unless the snewy press upon us. This is only mornine & possibly we way attack timultimenty here in front - If we do - the order will be as more for today. bur loss sertendag was 12 cr 13 hundrid. Han cuck & Frynch lost men then as moting the of the loops nearly Equal to what it was at autectore, It was a mighty Miggle . The many win Through intrenched - They fround a newsterous fire from life hits when our lives as they attempt list to Charge upon theme level. Miles with our magnificent latte lept n. 1. (A which I helong 1 4 the 6 4th which also wer with uset Fir outs camp ner reaching The Crest of the life when from the Brut works Abatting. But alliles was wounded in the neck not dangerously - He was here body Hoote pre dimmer ligs he has received which for hirst n. J. Met 9 here here how and F. pt frent. + Commission on its way. Otis got a letter from Nr. theman from Washington raying that Ser. Willow said The Pusident for appointment an Majersu. I suppose then is no doubt - That he is appointed and the announcement cite be made as non The congress paris a low increasing the no. of Mal. isa. but left my letter to go with Ohr For level's in hopes to get neut-got nothing week a hint that Sieges would more dome to an left instead & right is I wrote above . and that he mything to pom a junction with

"him. We found all in hed at yem. le's - we are pulsing the reaction of certer day's Strain of news musde Thind Think be will som he "abed" The aids abound I Stimm here you to que see the location of the pickets - Last night they are out till 2. a. m. my leg i only a lette son but they four me an account of it - Imean my sestendig's wound -The may of san plean found only do it very confully bud add from other letter, - I doubt of son con aybract the features - But it might be will to communicat that him Howard's Divin vor Lette Sugend the Aleman Francing of Schuda, and his night their on ofter their aumunities was 2 xpended - That you, H's x his bothers hours 3 wir wounded and the horse of the letter time - that other of his stiff had this heres Anuch - that St. Howard G. D. C. was dighter the product of the other leg - the grat set saturd revenued for the would be de fin Cake. Perhops (on work core to martin all this to the fact of my promotion to 12 ft + that it is not short in the termy that 4 so. It is to be may have a gran like - a Sheel burst in her Counch's quarter, to day in a nom in which on I his attiff was ashed. It-found thight through the bride weet St. awoke about adsuddenly as Ever mon did A Hater some time could regard Empland

# 12/14/1862 *From:* C.H. Howard

# *To:* Dellie [Rodelphus Gilmore]

CHH-082

Head Quarters 2d Division Fredericksburg Va

Head Quarters 2d Division Fredericksburg Va Dec. 14, 1862

Dear brother Dellie

As you see my letters to mother and as I have little time to write except when too tired, I have not written you since my arrival with the army. I will not repeat what I have written home.

It is Sabbath Evening and, thank God, we have seen no fighting today. There has been picket firing frequently and when I wrote mother last evening we were anticipating the renewal of the contest today. We were ordered to support Wilcox today at 10 A.M. and I carried the order to each of our Brigade Commanders to move to the left till in position to support as above. They were there before 10 A.M. But as we waited, reconnoitering in front, visiting generals and otherwise as usual passing the time, no orders came to move, neither did Gen. W. advance. In fact the Corps Generals, did not come back from over the river where they were holding Counsel at Gen. Burnside's H'd Q'rs till this afternoon.

So we came to this house which stands next to the one where we slept last night and which we selected this morning for H'd Q'rs should we remain in the city another night. It is the Parsonage of a Methodist Church. The carpets are down and furniture all here. I am writing in a blank book which has been partly filled with records of the Quarterly Conference. You ought to see the fine libraries that have been exposed to destruction & theft in this city. I wish our Government would confiscate these books and sell them at auction. I would replenish the libraries of my brothers if not my own and save the books from destruction.

It is so much of a task to give a full account of a great battle such as we fought yesterday, that I shrink from the undertaking. I wrote a letter to the Press about the first day & a note to Mr. Gilman telling to pass it to your credit if he saw fit to publish. I sent directly to him because it is worth so much more to be new. I sent him another letter today tho' not giving any details of yesterday. So I think I will write another if I am spared to do so. This evening - this moment we are sending out 5 Rgts to relieve Syke's pickets - two of his brigades which took our place during last night.

It seems probable that we will stay here and that the main attack will be made somewhere else. Siegel & Slocum who had a Corps at Harpers Ferry are ready and have not crossed the river - some of Hooker at least - the 3d Corp & I think another Div. were not engaged or under fire at all. These fresh troops will probably be sent to the attack upon the right flank and we will not have to fight unless the enemy press upon us. This is only surmise & possibly we may attack simultaneously here in front. If we do, the order will be as named for today. Our loss yesterday was 12 or 13 hundred. Hancock & French lost more than we making the loss of the Corps nearly equal to what it was at Antietam. It was a mighty struggle. The enemy were strongly entrenched. They poured a murderous fire from rifle pits upon our lines as they attempted to charge upon them. Col. Miles with our magnificent 61st N.Y. (to which I belong) & the 64th which also was with us at Fair Oaks came near reaching the crest of the hill where were the Breastworks & batteries. But Miles was wounded in the neck, not dangerously. He was here today & took dinner. Says he has received from Gov. of N.Y. that I have been promoted to 1st Lieut & commission on its way. Otis got a letter from Dr. Sherman from Washington saying that Sen. Wilson said Otis was one of those marked by the President for appointment as Maj. Gen. I suppose there is not doubt that he is appointed and the announcement will be made as soon as Congress passes a law increasing the limits of the no. of Maj. Gen.

Just left my letter to go with Otis to Gen. Couch's in hopes to get news. Got nothing except a hint that Siegel would move down to our left instead of right as I wrote above, and that we might move to form a junction with him. We found all in bed at Gen. C's. We are feeling the reaction of yesterday's strain of

nerve, muscle & mind & think we will soon be "abed". The aids, Atwood & Stinson have gone to oversee the location of the pickets. Last night they were out till 2 A.M. My leg is only a little sore but they favor me on account of it. Is near my yesterday's wound.

You may if you please forward a letter upon facts communicated here, only do it very carefully and add from other letters. I doubt if you can extract any sentences. But it might be well to communicate that Gen. Howard's Division was hotly engaged the afternoon & evening of Saturday and two brigades held their own after their ammunition was expended; that Gen. H's & his brother's horses were wounded and the horse of the latter twice & that others of his staff had their horses struck. That Lt. Howard A.D.C. was slightly wounded in the other leg, yet entirely recovered. Perhaps you won't care to mention all this & the fact of my promotion to 1st Lt. & that it is understood in the Army that Gen. H. is to be Maj. Gen. Do as you like. A shell burst in Gen. Couch's quarters today, in a room in which one of his aids was asleep. It passed straight through the brick wall & then exploded. I need hardly add the Lt. awoke about as suddenly as ever man did and for some time could scarcely comprehend the status therein. When he was fairly himself again he was gratified to find that he was neither killed nor hurt.

With love to all & request for your most fervent prayers. I will close. We have just <had> prayers & Otis is asleep by this time. Capt. W. is making his bed on the floor. I read part of Acts 10th tonight & offered the prayer. Not one letter from you yet.

Affectionately C.H. Howard

Love to father & mother. Did father get the \$30 I sent from Washington? Good Night. C.H.H

Monday Morning 8 1/2 A.M. No orders yet. Doubt if our Div. is engaged today. C.H.H.

of the books because of their lead in The bette of Falinday and severe loss there , that at one o' dock This Division sas in motion towards the field the Officer and men horr conducte if not charful faces as they marched steering along Seconder theet. And that would be abour one undeed wit moved to admination sit eight of this unfollowing morder into the most monuments here for all and artim death for many of their number. and the technisation there first awakened only became deeper and stronger ne watching then conduct during that sweetfie day, Cool. Hell's Prijer antoning 19720 Mess - the y mich. which we distinguished thelf a crossing the siver a Phunday - the 42dr 3 gthe h. 4. 7 12 gth Dord. was Reployed upon the right of the wood and several pit. That fire was too seven and They be, down and heed Their portion the seconder of the day & sociary. Col. Own's myed deplayed the the left. This is Burn Bright " Commanded to fin Howard at antieten - bol. One and starting forward for of the Hope in the free of the buttert fine and hel led in advance of all other houps. Then they that held their ground all day and write tested by the Regules of 2 negt morning, test concertaine marine word that he would lead his men friend again of he could have Horn of building Montrol & Durger of hipport\_

Howard's Livision neor Folueville Va. 200 1862 It few ticks of the lelegraphy have alread announced the appressive fact that the allack upon the Rebel brat worker begand me erecksburg was an utter forline and that that city was soccuted by our twops under cover of last night. I few bold and skill fue that the per in the hand of going produces a steteto which, in hight and shede, in it times of hearty, in accuracy and completeness is nature herself and why grotifying to here the has an sys for the beautiful with mind and heart to appreade thell in its delineation. When I think of the need we of this assig have of apupitty in the fullest serve is that the people of our country thould undristand what we have done and sufford and are suffering, mon in mind than body , Smouth physically ; in brief, the unmance importance that the whole truth about this attack and repulse, with the results, he made known throughout the length and beache of our land, I pray that the Lord hunself - the lad of notions-will give an stating in those early telegraphie words which shall convey to the fleague the truthe and the whole buth. I believe that in the part of this wor the falsebords, misrepresentation and with hearing of facts have demeted purely in Evel . But lest my proyer the not granted

and not only not the whole truth but achially what is false some be reattend owing the people to make the first infressions of this fighting & forlun - I will at in my cold list late at night with the wearing which has result I from the continued tension of merrer, of murdle bud of mind faming the part five days and the depression where has premeted from the blight offer our Cause has received and well, toreto some of the facts which come under my theoreter, hefme they ar forgotten. Then will undoubtelly be a good clour in the Fouth and among heles of the north against the sucking and fillage of Prodericks burg and all mee again that had it been prochable it around have been for better to have had the valuables of the at signed and confincated by inpracificable . That it was in the dusk of Svening that our brooks took possession of the city and they win competer to guter the houses to drive and the Rebels from their hiding-places. Most of the houses have already been red ded and thattered and their contents Either damaged or derbroysed by the white that and burting shells. huch an subry of the city as a whole or of the houses as the many forced us to make necessitated the devoteton, the And as to the pullage, it was the natural and unorndable Consequence when in The destines of the aught the foldiers Subord have offi fulling and saw all kinds of property before there to be waster or appropriated according to their will a sport part had bed . " had a proved at the

On Saherday morning Gran. Summer's Grand Division, make the to carry the menny's works in front. non loonde's beep, centining Minde', Slowcode's and Howard's Divisions were upon the refet- 4se. Willow lerves was when the left - Of Aranklin's practice the bille I there have little to my time I did not rations it - this would Dive crossed about two miles below the city and was expected to make Selecting the only theet which was not sport to a direct infileding fin from the snewy's betteries visit, in portion in sorthe work, Hen. French , whose turn A toa. to lead that day, made his debut free town at about 10 6.m. As won as his Column was in authin the many life of the of regornerly but with comporatively time et tous. He morched along demove that hugging the light closely as the left was visite from the of-Here surning's beart works - This thirt leads into a rovine which is bridged just beyond the finits of the city. The column persed over this bridge and then of " me deployed and advanced in fine of bette. And before they deployed they came within range of the Rubel rifles which began to make and here. Hancock non followed much but to getting his how they guat average and deadines and Advanced questher up the hell in the face of the deadly Norm of bullets - Howard's Division was alled The begine

was adond

#### 12/16/1862

### From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-083 Howard's Division Near Falmouth Va

Howard's Division Near Falmouth Va Dec. 16th 1862

[No salutation and no closing, This may have been intended for publication in a newspaper]

A few ticks of the telegraph have already announced the oppressive fact that the attack upon the Rebel breast-works beyond Fredericksburg was an utter failure and that that city was evacuated by our troops under cover of last night. A few bold and skillful strokes of the pen in the hand of genius produces a sketch which, in light and shade, in its lines of beauty, in accuracy and completeness, is nature herself and highly gratifying to him who has an eye for the beautiful with mind and heart to appreciate skill in its delineation. When I think of the need we of this army have of sympathy in the fullest sense; the necessity that the people of our country should understand what we have done and suffered and are suffering, more in mind than body, enough physically; in brief, the immense importance that the whole truth about this attack and repulse, with the results be made known throughout the length and breadth of our land, I pray that the Lord himself - the God of nations - will give an etching in those early telegraphic words which shall convey to the people the truth and the whole truth. I believe that in the past of this war the falsehoods, misrepresentations and withholding of facts have resulted purely in evil. But lest my prayer be not granted and not only not the whole truth but actually what is false be scattered among the people to make the first & most lasting impressions of this fighting & failure, I will sit in my cold tent late at night with the weariness which has resulted from the continued tension of nerves, of muscle and of mind during the past five days and the depression which resulted from the blight our cause has received and will record some of the facts which come under my observations before they are forgotten.

There will undoubtedly be a great clamor in the South and among Rebels of the North against the sacking and pillage of Fredericksburg and all persons will agree that had it been practicable it would have been far better to have had the valuables of the city seized and confiscated by Government. But it was in the dusk of evening that our troops took possession of the city and they were compelled to enter the houses to drive out the Rebels from their hiding places. Most of the houses had already been riddled and shuttered and their contents either damaged or destroyed by the solid shot and bursting shells. Such an entry of the city as a whole or of the individual houses as the enemy forced us to make necessitated the devastation, which we deplored. And as to the pillage, it was the natural and unavoidable consequence when in the darkness of the night the soldiers entered building after building and saw all kinds of property before them to be wasted or appropriated according to their will.

On Saturday morning Gen. Sumner's Grand Division was ordered to carry the enemy's works in front. Gen Couch's Corps containing French's, Hancock's and Howard's Divisions were upon the right. Gen Wilcox Corps upon the left. Of Franklin's part in the battle I shall have little to say since I did not witness it. His Grand Divn crossed about two miles below the city and was expected to make a simultaneous attack.

Selecting the only street perpendicular to the river which was not exposed to a direct enfiloding fire from the enemy's batteries visibly in position in earth works, Gen. French, whose turn it was to lead that day, made his debut from town at about 10 A.M. As soon as his column was in motion the enemy began to shell it vigorously but with comparatively little effect. He marched along Hanover Street hugging the right closely as the left was visible from one of the enemy's breast-works. This street leads into a ravine which is bridged just beyond the limits of the city. The column passed over this bridge and then at once deployed and advanced in line of battle. But before they deployed they came within range of the Rebel rifles, which began to make such havoc. Hancock soon followed French his troops showing great courage and steadiness and getting up the hill in the face of the deadly storm of bullets. Howard's Division was held as the <reserve> of the Corps because of their lead in the battle of Saturday and their severe loss therein. But at one o'clock this Division was in motion towards the field. The officers and men have resolute if not cheerful faces as they marched steadily along Hanover Street.

And that would be a barren soul indeed not moved to admiration at sight of this unfaltering march into

the most imminent peril for all and certain death for many of the number. And the administration there first awakened only became deeper and stronger in watching their conduct during that eventful day. Col Hall's Brigade containing the 19th & 20th Mass, the 7th Mich. which so distinguished itself in crossing the river on Thursday, the 42d & 59th N.Y. was deployed upon the right of the road and twice as a Brigade attempted an advance upon the enemy's rifle pits. The fire was too severe and they lay down and held their position the remainder of the day & evening. Col. Owen's Brigade deployed & advanced upon the left. This is "Burns' Brigade" commanded by Gen Howard at Antietam. They went steadily forward far up the slope in the face of the hottest fire and halted in advance of all other troops. Then they held their ground all day and until relieved by the Regulars at 2 next morning. Col Owen several times sending word that he would lead his men in a charge up the hill again if he could have support.

(I thered lay reducally) from writing about The fight in this letter. Then has been a flag of trace for leveral days under which we have had parties any the time burying the start it I leave with got Ari, so the first time of leaft. Hutching of The 16th - Chales Hentation, was willed . His ligt fought with troublin and lost heavily I'd arrived the night before the great alloult and I fear then aree be more There one was undertaken I am happy to feel that mounting formely on account thereof an I have a little bernen in which I can Con eeds - I know nothing in regard to the not-Juene with four more considerately. I herdly Sycipt that I have the mane of Requister, Suce Vinon what I have written going during the wounded the I think below, to fortand's Church with and a day pit hart . I do know that Those give a very hisperpet ugont of what and the idwards trouble the greated at Bowdoin lest Successer. That there wounds an not mortal. I suppose Mr. Betes fills will as the feelings and thoughts of this time have beard whether the 12th Mess. was sugged, is of a life tune which have filled up my Reynolds forps was in the hottest of the Shows and menutes . fight upon The left and she have the 12th is I am not new, henrow, going to make up the in his Corps. Vill Dillie Swa loff, Sget his Adjiciency but will write the appendent thought first letter last night and not to houte time. of this morning. I have been writing letters and self about orticles to pay for his peter ? attending to other burness properly of the k. a. 9's have sent three to be plaged the court in deportment since Budfast - sitting in this tent. Hick bend befor much about the dech's funder This has a new tent which he has had putched I where a stockaste made of whit timber about there Hers There roll mounting hearts - How many there are now he

feet high . The crivices an filled with a mindplate upon the artside which offerder a tight wall - Het had a prinfilece of bick made upon one side and a hearth of the some and though the finglace does not heat up so rapidly as an central Hove yet on the whole I think The her the most comfortable as well the neatest and pleasantest abode. Heis floor is made if Cedox boughs which look patty and mell sweet.

I have been interrupted in my letter by our old friend and Commissing best Bolloch who called is find that being one her an burness. He proposed among other things I furnish as with some dried heaches and some butter. We are about 4 las a day of the latter und the last we got cost us 50 cts per the 11 is 32 cts in Washington Helien. It was rather a cold night but today is milder. I now tent with leaft, Whattery which I like "specify as he has a games for fixing up all manner of convenience, and Compate. He has made a dear to the text - a floor from boards of toxes - a brick furnace like bottom To the Nor stuch retorns the heat adminibly.

deapt. W. and I together have a Colond boy 13 years old who came to the army 8 months ago from Charlestown Va. He and his father mother, thather, Insten belonged to a lod, there. Here int Come in and is taking my 2ª It. Hunder Wrops of my cost as I have some new 1th thops to lette then place. You a toning" is a very good boy for his place - deligent and ready. leapt. N. St. Strison and I tack have a seven cold - particips owing to changing from camp to have and back again , ming to an trief residence in trad Inchang. This is no morkably will and talks of withing for leave of a few days to go to Philedelphia for his new ame which has been making there. We an located upon the Top of a Conical hill avoid with words Except her afen the hummit so that our tents any mit winthe with sen get up her which you do by a hiding path. The axes needently whading away In cutting and perforing most for fin at there Head Quarters) remind me of our doon-jord at home in Early Spring. Wear burning oak at present, There we Those marpinily abstanced

#### 12/19/1862

#### From: C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-084

H'd Qr's 2nd Divn 2d Corps Near Falmouth Va

H'd Qr's 2nd Divn 2d Corps Near Falmouth Va Dec 19 1862

My dear Mother

Fairly settled again in the camp at which I found the Division when I arrived the night before the great assault was undertaken. I am happy to feel that I have a little leisure in which I can converse with you more considerately. I hardly know what I have written you during the week and a day just past. I do know that I have given a very imperfect record of what has been done and shared in doing by your two sons as well as the feelings and thoughts of this time of a life - time which have filled up my hours and minutes.

I am not now, however, going to make up the deficiency but will write the uppermost thoughts of this morning. I have been writing letters and attending to other business properly of the A. A. G.'s department since Breakfast - sitting in Otis' tent. Otis has a new tent which he has had pitched upon a stockade made of split timber about three feet high. The crevices are filled with a mud-plaster upon the outside which affords a tight wall. He had a fireplace of brick made upon one side and a hearth of the same and though the fireplace does not heat up so rapidly as our central stove yet on the whole I think Otis has the most comfortable as well the neatest and pleasantest abode. His floor is made of cedar boughs which look pretty and smell sweet.

I have been interrupted in my letter by our old friend and commissary Capt Bulloch who called in for a social chat being over here on business. He proposed among other things to furnish us with some dried peaches and some butter. We use about 4 lbs a day of the latter and the last we got cost us 50 cts per lb. It is 32 cts in Washington I believe.

It was rather a cold night but today is milder. I now tent with Capt. Whittlesey which I like especially as he has a genius for fixing up all manner of conveniences and comforts. He has made a door to the tent, a floor from boards of boxes, a brick furnace-like bottom to the stove which retains the heat admirably. Capt. W. and I together have a colored boy 13 years old who came to the Army 8 months ago from Charlestown Va. He and his father, mother, 4 brothers & sisters belonged to a lady there. He just came in and is taking my 2d Lt shoulder straps off my coat as I have some new 1st Lt straps to take their place. "Tom" or "Tommy" is a very good boy for this place - diligent and ready.

Capt. W., Lt. Stinson and I each have a severe cold - perhaps owing to changing from camp to house and back again owing to our brief residence in Fredericksburg. Otis is remarkably well and talks of asking for leave of a few days to go to Philadelphia for his new arm which has been making there.

We are located upon the top of a conical hill covered with woods except here upon the summit so that our tents are not visible until you get up here which you do by a winding path. The axes incessantly whacking away (in cutting and preparing wood for fires at these Head Quarters) remind me of our dooryard at home in early Spring. We are burning oak at present.

You see I have temporarily abstained (I should say naturally) from writing about the fight in this letter. There has been a flag of truce for several days under which we have had parties in the river burying <the dead>.

Last night I learned with great grief for the first time that Capt. Hutchins of the 16th - Charlie Hutchins - was killed. His Regt fought with Franklin and lost heavily and I fear there will be more than one mourning family, on account thereof in Leeds. I know nothing in regards to the rest - except that I saw the name of Augustus Luce wounded who I think belongs to Rowland's Church and Lt Edwards wounded who graduated at Bowdoin last summer. I trust their wounds are not mortal. I suppose Mr. Bates' folks will have heard whether the 12th Mass was engaged. Reynolds Corps was in the hottest of

the fight upon the left and I believe the 12th is in his Corps.

Tell Dellie I was happy to get his first letter last night and not to trouble himself about articles to pay for his paper as I have sent three to be placed to his credit. I had not heard before much about Huldah's funeral. Think you, father and Dellie ought to go and see George [George Lothrop, Huldah's husband] & the girls often now for they will be lonely. The Lord bless them & all mourning hearts. How many there are now in our stricken land.

Some think that Burnside will be relieved. What a mistake that Banks was not sent against Richmond. Failure upon failure - mistake succeeding mistake and worse, sin added to sin. What will become of our once flourishing Republic. Pray, pray, pray, I would say to all the loyal women of the country and the men need the exhortation more than the women.

Love to all, from Your Affectionate Son C.H. Howard

A Contraction of the states We had a good letter broke Rontand a day ation ago in which he says they are going What for , 1th a day of terty Prayer, not having beck a him from you me I com and I do not know about your it custin to good an opportunity intentions on whether it is pree-No write ber revenal days to be heath for you to cample with Rostand's montation to yourd the Theor we are to move back with 1st week of 1863 with him. I Pince get a tethe new for this hope an ango for I know Grail which leaves here this you would sign it I Think Afternove . He were nuch mask I would be neutrally pleasant Sigton toneonous. I profitable. I have sever I have this bornoon A 18 ?? learned whether father bad for made a case when Jug & & 35 the \$30 which I set here pre all kequicat 612th. T. - Very Washington, in safety. Than The of the old offices anter. let Dillie mention it of your My promotion dates as for An not get offertunt to wite. Mr. Whitten wit, that area hus comind off cee The more. hack as 26th of may no that Vay monthis of additional pay Is it to in Seads ? Ithoutes panoniting thelien to about that like voin her - 9 her worde have a store to more \$5.00 her arouth is already Solve VI can get it as somes

The Concursion aris which is on its way, bol hile, forminey bellow-aid with me has gove house with a wound in the neck not doughous . leaft. Those whom I boleow in promotion will soon be Maj. and of then were no objection to having a laft. detaile as aid I could be promoted again. You. Ledgerick has now mand States command of the Corps -He is now with this to his tent . this wish is a little laure there freez reovered. He is kind & dispond to but inplicit confidence in this 20 That bur retations were be The pleasantest. It is worme as May how but the Misses Washington upon whom I colled wat this Unlerday to the live near her

say that we there have much Colder weather get Throbally Home thow . Today I have been lasting about to by Third a Costing door Thress function for dra. Ledgwide takes his curry now. We never have bad a Thore to I did not maced in setting me today . It is now Evening . I did not get my letter down lefon going out with her. throad (and I for the herpor mentioned . WE have The product of setting huss Chert VC. from the loude's Ha mas they were court. idet two foundes they have Each hed their mess. Hun bench is only away on leave and it is thought tree not like it show he hear that Ven Jedewick har his Corps .

#### 12/26/1862

#### From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-085

H'd Q'rs 2nd Div 2nd Corps Near Falmouth Va

H'd Q'rs 2nd Div 2nd Corps Near Falmouth Va Dec 26 1862

My dear Mother

For fear I may not get another so good an opportunity to write for several days as I hear we are to move back soon. I will get a letter ready for the mail which leaves here this afternoon. It will reach Washington tomorrow.

I have this forenoon been over & made a call upon my old Regiment 61st N.Y. Very few of the old officers are left. My promotion dates as far back as 26th of May so that 7 months of additional pay amounting I believe to about \$5.00 per month is already due & I can get it as soon as the commission arrives which is on its way. Col Miles formerly fellow-aid with me has gone home with a wound in the neck not dangerous. Capt Mazo whom I follow in promotion will soon be Maj. and if there were no objection to having a Capt. detailed as aid I could be promoted again. Gen. Sedgewick has now arrived & takes command of the Corps. He is now with Otis in his tent. His wrist is a little lame, otherwise fully recovered. He is kind & disposed to put implicit confidence in Otis so that our relations will be the pleasantest.

It is warm as May now but the Misses Washington upon whom I called with Otis yesterday & who live near here say that we shall have much colder weather yet & probably some snow.

Today I have been looking about to try & find a cooking stove & mess furniture for Gen. Sedgwick takes his away now. We never have had a stove & I did not succeed in getting one today. It is now evening. I did not get my letter done before going out with Mr. Atwood (aid) for the <person fore> mentioned. We have the prospect of getting a mess chest &c from Gen Couch's H'd Q'rs as they will consolidate two <families> which have each had their mess.

Gen. Couch is only away on leave and it is thought will not like it when he hears that Gen. Sedgwick has his Corps.

We had a good letter from Rowland a day or two ago in which he says they are going to make Jan 1st a day of fasting & prayer. Not having rec'd a line from you since I came out I do not know about your intentions or whether it is <feasible> for you to comply with Rowland's invitation to spend the 1st week of 1863 with him. I hope you can go for I know you would enjoy it & I think it would be mutually pleasant and profitable. I have never learned whether father rec'd the \$30 which I sent him from Washington in safety. Please let Dellie mention it if you do not get opportunity to write.

Mrs. Whittlesey writes that a rain has carried off all the snow. Is it so in Leeds? It looks & feels like rain here. I fear we will have a storm to move in.

Otis is writing Lizzie. Says you must not get lonely. That perhaps he shall come to Leeds to live when he gets back as some of his friends are very desirous he shall hale from that Congressional district. You have our prayers & <absolute> love.

Affectionately, C.H.H.

Love to Dellie & to father. A happy New Year to all.

P.S. Otis includes \$20 for mother - a New Year's gift.