

Howe on Recruit Service

Leeds Dec. 1st 62

Dear Brother

When father returned to the corner after carrying you over he found that Keldoh had just expired.

The funeral will be on Wednesday next at 10 1/2 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 has gone down to Wensa's.

Your Affectionate Brother
(over) 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, Deline, must
be careful lest your heart
grow 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
lead to bring father to
give his heart to Christ.
Good Bye - C. H. H.

12/1/1862 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: Brother (Rodelphus
Gilmore)

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 I would write and
rest after walking for an hour
or two. Olio & Capt. W. were well.
Mrs. Forwell is not well. I
board with them corner of K
& 12th streets. They have a club
there now - all from Maine or
Mass. & they were kind enough
to take me in - Mrs. Chase
of Boston - the house keeper giving
up her bed for me -

I had a pleasant evening at
Mrs. Merrick's (the father) met
the Woodwins then & all the
Merrick family - two or three
unmarried daughters. I left my
best in Philadelphia & 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 yes-
terday that Burnside had crossed
the river below Fredericksburg but
nothing of it in the papers - Don
well - made up my sleep last night.
Slept scarcely any in the case. ^{Phosph. Light.}
Love to father & Dr. ^{Affectionately}
C. H. Howard

Washington Dec. 6th '62

Dear Mother

I arrived here early
yesterday morning and spent
the day in prosecuting business
as vigorously & perseveringly as
I was capable of doing. I cleared
up the difficulty about myself
& the "Mastering in" after going
back & forth between the depart-
ments several times - talking al-
most incessantly - discussing
some - quarrelling a little -
being somewhat fancy at
times and occasionally
adroit - having records searched
and furnishing data & evi-
dence 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 blocked 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 every body - then arose another one and I was compelled to write to Otis & call on our own 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 he used 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 my 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 thousands but none of them appeared to be remarkably promising. Shall pay from 100 to 125 dollars probably.

I am writing in Army Department by kindness of Mr. Farwell - Was on my way back from the Corral

12/6/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

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 & perseveringly 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 vain & then come over here
to Mr. Forwell's office in
the Navy Department when
I am writing. Mr. Longley is
here - I don't know whether it is
Josiah or the one who lives in
Worcester - I think the former -

He introduced himself to me &
told me he had often seen me
& knew my ^{I find it was William} brothers.
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
and they will be ^{Washington D.C.} more likely to
get it - The Agency are constantly
sending things to the Army -
Sam. Penney son of Judge P. is in
the employ of the Agency -

I am going soon to try the
Pay Dept. again and if I
do not get my dues today, think
I shall leave my accounts

Washington Dec. 8 '62

My dear Mother

In my letter to
Billie you will see how I speak
yesterday morning. In the eve-
ning I heard Dr. Quaker preach
upon the ^{1st} verse of the Chap. of Rev.
a Missionary Sermon, at the close
of which a collection was taken.
Mrs. Chase (the house-keeper at
the Maine Club when I board)
and Mrs. Kimball wife of one
of the boarders who were a classmate
of Rowland's in college and
his room-mate the first term
of his Freshman year (Mr. Kim-
ball is a clerk in the 2^d Auditor's
Office) Mrs. K. was the daughter
of Mr. Pines - Book-keeper at Augusta
to Mr. — these ladies accompanied

me to Church. Dr. G. a Party
been ill, 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 Mrs. 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 other
subjects - He & his wife have just
been reading "Les Misérables" and this
furnished a topic for considerable com-
ment. They like the work much.

Mrs. Farnell 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 give their hours to their
meals. Mr. F. carries up their
food - Mr. & Mrs. Kimball have
a little boy about 2 years old.

This morning is "dear, cold,
crisp & healthy," using Rev. Mr.
Stockton's word, which he applied
to yesterday. I have been to the
Express office to inquire for my
belt which I left in Philad^a but
rather that we left. Whittier's
saddle which was to come from
Philad^a has arrived yet. I also
went to the Pay Department but
got "no answer as last week
no money" - I made out my
accounts & waited half an hour

with you. Forwell who kindly^{ly}
offers to advance me the
money, when, I can pay
you 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 Books
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 be in the 23^d Me. which, I hear,
~~is~~ ^{is} three in Md. about 14 miles
above Georgetown - So they are
not to accompany Books.
If Mr. L. goes I will send a
letter to Oscar.

Proost to Clark Curtis on

6

Saturday, to ascertain whether
he was still at Alex^a 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 Betty gone?

Your Affectionate Son
W. H. Howard

12/8/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

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 <other> subjects. 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

11 I took Tea last evening with Mrs. Tompson at Mr. Hall's who was formerly from Maine - (Vassalboro). Mrs. S. had been at Alex^r yesterday & seen Clark Curtis 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 course 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 Fredricksburg. They found out or surmised that Burnside was going to flank them by going down the river but moved considerable of their force down there, so the plan is changed.

was appointed Major Genl with 4000 men & ordered with them to spend with them till the 1st of Dec^r when he was ordered to take the remainder of the Army to the river to be with the Army of the Potomac. I arrived at this place - Found the Capt. Bunker - no, he came out to meet me and then we went to the supper table & then I greeted the rest of the staff - (Captains Whittlesey & Smith, Lieut. Stinson & Atwood) who welcomed me cordially - Capt. Patch was luckily at the depot & got me a horse to ride up - I did not take the one from Washburn but meeting Capt. Bunker bought a better one of him which I knew & which was down here with Gen. Caldwell.

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10 1862
at Falmouth
2^d Divⁿ
Lt. Col. Caldwell

I dined the Supper of Indian Cakes
Tossing 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 Lizzy
that he hoped I would not come
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 disappointed 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 grounds and
to stay till I got pay for the
horses - But the letter will be opened
by Hayes & the business properly attend-
ed to - Mr. Forwell would not allow
me to pay anything at their Club
so I have not been on expense.
Last night I slept with Lou. Pearly
got up at 5 this morning - The
Steamboat was a poor one - crowded
& a state of seats - We reached Aquia
at about 1 P.M. I sat waiting upon
a Platform Car till two P.M. & then rode
with others in a barrel by the side of Gen. Doubleday
others to a point two miles from here.

5 Burnside is determined to out-⁵
general them if possible and we
know not finally what the plan
will be yet. Otis has now gone
to Gen. Sumner's Hd Qrs - Went
away at 7 P. M. after having a
bath with me about home, my journey,
affairs here, &c. He will bring
back the general 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 -
How would we feel were we in the
hands of a less beneficent & merciful
Being! But as God in His infinite

Goodness he revealed his charac-
ter to us and also taught that
all the affairs of this world are
moulded by His will - and
more than ~~all~~ ^{this} that all things
work together for the good of
them 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 &
healthy & 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
Repairer - I had bought a nice hair mattress
from Penney gave me a pillow, which I
took as a gift, & a luxury not necessary but
acceptable. Capt. W. V. Shaw a negro boy named
I went with the aids - (see 1st page)

12/10/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-080

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

H'd Q'r's 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'r's. 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

Morning
Dec. 14 - all
well - good sleep
Sumner's attack
at 10 a.m.
Some 1500

Head Quarters 2^d Division
Fredericksburg Va -
Dec. 13th 1862

My dear Mother
We have been
in another battle today - exposed
during most of the forenoon
and ^{in afternoon} our men under fire
in action till after dark tonight.
The Lord has shielded us again
Otis true 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 boots
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 stay-
ed here during all the campaigning.
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 &

defunct 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. Goodwell - Col. Brock
 Col. Miles & Lieut. McKim - all
 the Commanders of our old Brig-
 ade have been wounded. Gen.
 Lully of our Div. was slightly
 wounded - He has come back
 & we have had prayer - the ladies
 kneeling with us. We feel that
 that the Lord has saved us
 from the
 He
 The prayer of the faithful soldiers
 left Howard

11/2 (1) Wm. Dec. 14 - Sabbath
 Capt. W. & I. S. W. & Co. were behind and our
 Gen. - 1861

12/13/1862

From: C.H. Howard

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.

Close - We have just had
 by you & this is about
 by this time. Left. We
 is making his best
 day at floor - head
 of act. 10th brig
 to attend the picnic -
 will be letter from
 you set
 affectionately
 to H. H. Arnold
 from father & mother

Head Quarters 2^d Division
 Fredericksburg Va.

Dec. 14, 1862

brother Willie

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
 since yesterday. There has been picket firing
 frequently and when I wrote mother last
 evening we were anticipating the renew-
 al of the contest today. We were or-
 dered 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 General
 did not come back from over the
 river when they were building Counsel at
 Gen. Brumside's Hd Qrs till this after-
 noon. So we came to this house which
 stands next to the one where we slept
 last night and which we selected this
 morning for Hd Qrs. Here we remain
 in the city another night. It is the Passa-
 age of a Methodist Church - The carpets are

2
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 brethren 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 news. 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 Regts, to relieve Tyler'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 - Sigel, & Shocum who ~~who~~ had a Corps at Harper's Ferry are ^{ready} and have not crossed the river - Some of Hooker at least the 3^d Corps so 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 have³
to fight unless the enemy press upon us.
This is only our mine & possibly we may
attack simultaneously here in front - If we
do - the odds will be as named for today.
Our loss yesterday was 12 or 13 hundred.
Hancock & Frynck 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
intrenched - They poured a murderous fire
from rifle pits upon our lines as they attempt-
ed to charge upon them. Gen. Miles with
our magnificent 6th Regt N.Y. (to which
I belong) & the 64th which also was with us at
Fair Oaks came near reaching the crest of
the hill when from the Breast-works, batteries
But Miles was wounded in the neck not
dangerously - He was here today & took
dinner - says he has received notice from
Gov. 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 Gen. Wilson said
Otis' name was one of those marked by
the President for appointment as Maj. Gen.
I suppose there is no 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. Leach's in hopes to get news -
got nothing except a hint that Siege
would move down to our left instead
of right as I wrote above, and that
we ought now to form a junction with

4 Min. We found all in bed at
Gen. G's - we are feeling the re-
action of yesterday's strain of nerve
muscle & mind & think we will
soon be "ahead" - The aids Abwood & Stur
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 - I mean my yesterday's wound -
You may if you please find
a letter upon facts communicated here
only do it very carefully and add
from other letters - I doubt if you
can extract my sentences - But it
might be well to communicate that
Gen. Howard's Division was hotly engaged
the afternoon & evening of Saturday and
^{Monday} 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 other of his staff had their horses
struck - that Lt. Howard A.D.C. was slightly
wounded in the other leg - ~~being not yet entirely~~
~~recovered from the wound well at Fair Oaks.~~
P.S. You want 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} staff was asleep.
It passed through the brick wall &
then exploded - I need hardly add that Lt.
St. awake about as suddenly as ever man did
and for some time could scarcely comprehend
the status verum - When he was finally himself again he
was glad to find that he was neither killed nor hurt.
With love to all & request for your most fervent prayers I will

Monday morning - 8 1/2 A.M. This or day of our day

Monday morning - 8 1/2 A.M. This or day of our day

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 Breast-works & 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 ½ A.M. No orders yet. Doubt if our Div. is engaged today. C.H.H.

of the Corps because of their loss in the battle
of Saturday and severe loss therein. But at one o'clock
this Division was in motion toward the field. The
Officers and men bore resolute if not cheerful faces
as they marched steadily along Steeplechase.

And that would be a lesson were indeed not
moved to admiration at sight of this unflinching
march into the most imminent peril for all and certain
death for many of their number. And the admiration
there first awakened only became deeper and stronger
in watching their conduct during that eventful day.
Col. Keell's Brigade ^{the 19th & 20th Mass - the 7th}
Mich. which distinguished itself in crossing the river
on Thursday - the 42nd & 39th N. Y. ~~of the 1st of the~~ ^{was}
deployed upon the right of the wood and ^{several}
^{as a Brigade attempted an advance upon the} ~~the~~
~~front~~ ~~and~~ ~~upon~~ ~~the~~ ~~bank~~

pit. The fire was too severe and they lay down and held
their position the remainder of the day & evening.
Col. Owen's Brigade ^{advanced} deployed upon the left. This
is "Burns Brigade" commanded by Gen Howard
at Antietam - Col. Owen ^{they went steadily forward} advanced far up
the slope in the face of the hottest fire and held
it in advance of all other troops. Then they
~~stood~~ held their ground all day and until
relieved by the Regulars at 2 next morning.
Col. Owen several times ^{in charge} ^{up the hill} ^{again} ^{if} ^{he} ^{could} ^{have}
"support"

Howard's Division
Near Falmouth Va.

Dec. 16th 1862

A few ticks of the telegraph have al-
ready announced the oppressive fact that the
attack upon the Rebel breast-works beyond Fred-
ericksburg was an utter failure and that
that city was recaptured by our troops under
cover of last night. A few bold and skill-
ful strokes of the pen in the hand of genius
produce a ^{sketch} ~~sketch~~ which, in light and shade, in its
lines of beauty, in accuracy and completeness is
nature herself and rightly 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 mud 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, ^{through} 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 us strength 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, misrepresentation, and withholding of facts have
been meted purely in evil. But lest my prayer be not granted

and not only not the whole truth but actually what is false ~~some~~ be scattered among the people to make the first, ^{most lasting} impressions of this fighting & fortune - I will sit in my cold tent late at night with the weariness which has resulted from the continued tension of nerves, of ~~muscle~~ ^{muscle} and of mind ~~during~~ ^{passing} the past five days and the depression ^{which has} ~~promoted~~ ^{promoted} ~~come~~ from the blight ~~upon~~ ^{our} cause has received and will ^{record} ~~write~~ some of the facts which came under my observation, 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 for ^{several sufficient} ~~two~~ reasons at least this was impracticable. 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 shattered and their contents either damaged or destroyed by the solid shot and bursting shells. Such an sacking of the city as a whole or of the ^{indignance} houses as the enemy forced us to make necessitated the ~~destruction~~ ^{destruction}. And as to the pillage, it was the natural and unavoidable consequence when in the darkness of the night the soldiers entered ^{buildings} ~~houses~~ ^{the} buildings and saw all kinds of property before them to be ~~wasted~~ ^{wasted} or appropriated according to their will.

was added

On Saturday morning Gen. Sumner's Grand Division, ~~make~~ ^{make} them 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. Willcox's Corps was upon the left. Of Franklin's position in the battle I shall have little to say since I did not witness it - His Grand Div. crossed about two miles below the city and was expected to make a simultaneous attack.

French's Div. ~~led~~ ^{up of the right} ~~in~~ ^{perpendicular to the river} ~~Marching down~~ selecting the only street which was not exposed to a direct enfilading fire from the enemy's batteries visible 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} ~~small loss~~. He marched along Hancock Street hugging the right closely as the left was visible from ~~one of~~ the enemy's best 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 ~~was~~ ^{was} deployed and advanced in line of battle. But before they deployed they came within range of the Rebel rifles which began to make sad havoc. Hancock soon followed French but ~~and~~ ^{and} his troops showing great courage and steadiness ~~and~~ ^{getting} ~~advanced~~ ^{advanced} further up the hill in the face of the deadly ^{shed as} ~~rain~~ ^{rain} of bullets. Howard's Division was ~~held~~ ^{held} the reserve

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 enfilading 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 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 on the river buying
the... Sept 1st I became with you
you, the first time I left Capt. Hutton's of
the 16th - Charles Hutton's 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
Seeds - I know nothing in regard to the rest -
except that I saw the name of Augustus Suce
wounded who I think belongs to Kenton's Church
and St. Edwards wounded who graduated at
Bowdoin last Summer. I trust these wounds are
not mortal. I suppose Mr. Peter's 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 Dillie Swa. Coffy & get his
first letter last night and not to trouble him-
self about articles to pay for his paper as I
have sent them to be placed to his credit.
I had not heard before much about Richard's funeral.
Think you, father & Dillie ought to go and see George
& the girls often now for they will be lonely. The Lord
 bless these poor mourning hearts - How many there are now in

our Stricken Land. - Some think Prunette only be killed. What a
miserable that Burke was not sent against Richard - Fisher
upon Richard - Mitch
Succeeding Prunette
and worse, Jim
added to Simon that
will become of you
one flour eating to -
public - Przy, Przy
pray, I would not
to all the loyal was
of the country, and
men need the spirit
from Prunette then the
Prunette
Love to all
your Yrs Wm. H. H.
C. H. H. H. H. H.
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 con-
verse 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 should in doing, 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

What a
miserable that
Burke was not
sent against
Richard - Fisher
upon Richard -
Mitch
Succeeding
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and worse, Jim
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of the country,
and
men need the
spirit
from Prunette
then the
Prunette
Love to all
your Yrs
Wm. H. H.
C. H. H. H. H.

Sept 19 1862
2d Corps
Palmerette Va.

feet high. The crannies 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
it 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 Ballou
who called in for a moment that 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 & Belair.

It was rather a cold night but today
is milder. I now tent with Capt. Whittier 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, & brother
& sister, belonged to a lady there. He just
came in and is taking my 2^d St. Mule's Straps off
my coat as I have some new 1st St Straps to take
their place. "Tom" or "Tommy" is a very good
boy for his place - diligent and ready.

Capt. W. St.imson and I each have a
severe cold - perhaps owing to changing from
camp to home and back again owing to our
brief residence in Fort Mifflin. This is re-
markably well and talks of taking 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 necessarily whacking away
(no cutting and preserving wood for fire at these
Head Quarters) remind me of our door-yard at
home in early Spring. We are burning oak at
present. You see I have busily obtained

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 doorway 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

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. Meigs 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. Sedgwick has now assumed
Peter's 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 im-
plicit confidence in Otis so
that our petitions 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 buy & find a cooking
stove & mess furniture for Gen.
Sedgwick taking 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 pur-
pose mentioned. We have
the prospect of getting a mess
chest &c. from Gen. Couch's
Hd Qrs as they will con-
sider two families ^{which} they have
each had their mess.

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