Hay 14 1863 Din Brother It is a bright warm morning - This portion of the anny is resting often four days Rech - The second night of the broke. ing up cemp Son, Howard's Commund arred The Raphahanak at Killy's Ford - They had Mirroll ! thirten miles that day. Some won in favor of waiting till next morn. ing mean which getting the Tontom up + hulding the Bridge, Som, U. Lelailed a thousand men of hithe assishat in tringing wh and leging the Pontary. They pushed the boats

into March rever which Emples Lite the Rappohounde new Relly's Ford, immediate filled them with strat fiften men in lack, hushed down that theme and across the Koppahennockmeanwhile Gon, Harrard had lined the north book of the come with thort theoties and Some Rebel Cornery , dementer, demanual contra cover of the tens and in orth futs until the first bouts reached the Thon when they Suddenly Took to their horas and fled. This occurred between 9 and 10 in the soming-The Cuiting of the might war God The he drage of least. Com stuck of Mes, Suginers - hut withers

8

reperentended by Gow. Howard in person. The bookse was Completed don't 11 ochock. and a Remont of Graly rent seass directly - They peter scentin sel the roads- Captions som aches which The Robels in Men haste loft helind - It los about midnight when Esn, Haward crossed and before anoming the cutin loops had heten position on the frutt with of the Ruffahamide. The fichets were thrown out The morning the 12 mays the 5-the Star 12 the head had to friet myth Kule and horded

in to thermanna Bright it Au Reffidam - The 11th follows they had trad to the sent of the sent of Ceft to Ely's Ford Min. the the head of the Calumn Cachel Fremmen Bridge they surprised stant 125 Robers & who were rebuilding the bridge & capturing of 5 with the Cons of on how Keller and soul There wannied on an use the with one killed and several wounded of The Rebels - The works the commence much & who will the and will the and will the and will the and will the will the will the will the will the pept a day - we rely of me a

5/1/1863 From: C.H. Howard To: Brother [Rodelphus

Gilmore]

CHH-098 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps May 1st 1863

Dear Brother [Probably Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is a bright, warm morning. This portion of the army is resting after four days marching and two nights without sleep. On the night of 27th ult. The second night after breaking up camp Gen. Howard's command crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford. They had marched thirteen miles that day. Some were in favor of waiting till next morning. I mean which getting the Pontoons up & building the Bridge. Gen. H. detailed a thousand men & who assisted in bringing up and laying the Pontoons. They pushed the boats into Marsh river which empties into the Rappahannock near Kelly's Ford, immediately filled them with about fifteen men in each, pushed down that stream and across the Rappahannock - meanwhile Gen. Howard had lined the north bank of the river with Sharp Shooters and driven away the Rebel pickets. Some Rebel Cavalry, however dismounted, remained under cover of trees and in rifle pits until the first boats reached the shore when they suddenly took to their horses and fled. This occurred between 9 and 10 in the evening.

The building of the bridge was the charge of Capt. Comstock of U.S. Engineers - but was superintended by Gen . Howard in person. The bridge was completed about 11 o'clock and a Regiment of Cavalry was sent across directly. They scouted all the roads - captured some sabres which the Rebels in their haste left behind. It was about midnight when Gen. Howard crossed and before morning the entire Corps had taken position on the South side of the Rappahannock. The pickets were thrown out about two miles. Early in the morning the 12th Corps began to cross and after that the 5th. The 12th had had a full night's sleep and marched on to Germanna Bridge on the Rapidan. The 11th followed on the same road though they had little time for rest. The 5th took a road to the left to Ely's Ford. When the head of the column reached Germanna Bridge they surprised about 125 Rebels who were rebuilding the bridge capturing 75 with the loss of one man killed and one officer wounded on our side with one killed and several wounded of the Rebels. The troops then commenced marching across the Ford.

May 2nd morning. All well - were shelled yesterday. Few wounded. Expect to fight today. We rely upon a higher power. God bless all at home.

Yr affectionate Brother C. H. Howard

Hd. qrs. 11<sup>th</sup> Corps May 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dear Brother

It is a bright
warm morning- This portion of the
army is resting after four days
marching and two nights without
night of
On the - 27<sup>th</sup> ult.

ing up camp Gen. Howard's command crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford- They had marched thirteen miles that day. Some were in favor of waiting till next morning meanwhile getting the Pontoons up & building the Bridge. Gen. H. detailed a thousand men, who assisted in bringing up and laying the Pontoons. This pushed the boats

into Marsh river which empties into the Rappahannock near Kelly's Ford, immediately filled them with about fifteen men in each, pushed down that stream and across the Rappahannock. Meanwhile Gen. Howard had lined the north bank of the river with sharp shooters and drawn away the Rebel picketshowever, dismounted, Some Rebel Cavalry however, remained under cover of some trees and in rifle pits until the first boats reached the shore when they suddenly took to their horses and fled. This occurred between 9 and 10 in the evening.

The building of the Bridge was under the the charge of Capt. Comstock of U. S. Engineers - but was superintended by Gen. Howard in person. The bridge was completed about 11 o'clock, and a Regiment of Cavalry sent across directly- They pickettscouted all the roads - captured some sabres which the Rebels in their haste left behind- It was about midnight when Gen. Howard crossed and before morning the entire Corps had taken position on the South side of the Rappahannock-The picketts were thrown out about two miles- Early in the morning the 12th Corps began to cross and after that the 5th The 12th had had a full night's sleep and moved

on to Germanna Bridge at the Rappidan- The 11th followed them on the same road though little they had had . no time for rest. The 5th took a road to the left to Ely's Ford. When the 4th reached the head of the column reached Germanna Bridge they surprised about 125 Rebels who were rebuilding the bridge and guarding capturing 75 capturing 75 with the loss of one man killed and one officer wounded of the Rebels- The troops then commenced marching straight through the creek across the Ford-

May 2<sup>nd</sup> morning- All well-Were shelled yesterday- Few wounded- Expect to fight today- We rely upon a ont, across side of page 4:1

Yr affectionate bro.

God bless all

cont. across side of page 4:1

11 Hd, grs, 11 The Cops, May 4 1823 wining Dear mother It is after do Mand I have to conda but I will ante gou a little in The dark - In The borth battle thating achough we arm flow Exposer & dish and three get our tropy um not admand ingeget our trop did not behave will dring. In testmeth theles and Caft Dessons was piller Bul mily me waty won ted - Sant

night we were wretend rivered the by attacks Upm our hims - By The guns we - Knue Zew ling that ledgich was We had the ment the and lommon tree mach to his relief - Though or got frully severy handed in gestily's Vitalings toll. On Lord is our better sur. 8 hope to Rating will This offernon by a transon fining in our right so you

We are bekind of hots and comes toes them asont my face if the brings will that you cannot tree how bully the best to me then own away - a lone dunned to orgs them: To ame Regunto me birt, no our right which Jockson turned -We this willen his death How & Rebel

5/4/1863 From: C.H. Howard To: Mother

CHH-099 Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps Chancellorsville

[On outside of letter:] Chancellorsville May 4 '63 C. H. Howard To Mother

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps May 4 1863

Dear Mother

It is after dark and I have no candle but I will write you a little in the dark. In the terrible battle yesterday although we were often exposed to shot and shell yet our troops were not actually engaged. Our troops did not behave well yesterday & we were badly driven. My tentmate and fellow aide Capt Dessars was killed. Col. Miles was badly wounded. Last night we wakened several times by attacks upon our lines. By the guns we knew yesterday that Sedgwick was fighting near Fredericksburg. We heard the roar today and tomorrow will march to his relief, though we got pretty severely handled in yesterday's & Saturdays battle.

The Lord is our trusted guide.

I hope the Rebels will let us sleep tonight. I was awakened hrs before now by a tremendous firing on our right. So you see we sleep daytime.

We are behind rifle pits and could hold them against any force - if the troops will stand. You cannot tell how badly Otis felt to see them run away. A force seemed to seize them. Two German Regiments, <> first on our right which Jackson turned.

We think this will be the death blow to Rebellion.

Your loving son, C. H. Howard

The adjuarters Eleventh Corps, today. I never Experience a mon un comfuteble might of 33 Hall's Stations, Va, How that of hunday May 5 It began to row in terrent, in For must be ever the oftenoon - Two riding to And out a route by which & I that for the post wate I withdress on levels through the words to u. S. Ford which Show had no opportunity to swite. Ince the furious was to be under loken that night - Igot through drewder attack when one books which began about 5 my feet is wet as it Thed been o'cluck on John Ley neither warring a river - At continued to now all might - WE had been Smy autwork Circumstance notefiel that our books which In my feelings were famille was to have been the next tothe 31. lette civiling - Tundy, Mondy, last - ( but in the Event wer the It thestay we were mon or

during out they are less under fin. On Tuesday the Robert shound a Mecial Pickets were driven in. Of Course Ots felt the derign when this - Finally quetet anxiety for few com dist bol Meyendungs hom under him or he was by the behind the impervious logs General i side - After that and Eath which former Otis consented to go on book when on the front and in certain the Righ lit is called and roup of the enemy's rifles. Whenever firing communaed he would mount his how Tunday, mendy & hearday until One would gallof to the 3 o'clock Wed. moning ore held the left with Eur. However hout of Atrack in the greatest hoste. I believe I who was spen the Extreme left. We were behind outh hits but write not attempt to give all the time Exhecting on you a bull account of attack and several times the four day bighting

do set know - Once one we had 13 mil brush bruch on comp- Me of wite Court before 9 That might - but up open Holge tents - not wnothing total Twom all won round orleef - I believe it was ofter 9 next morning then The walker me by passing his houd one my forhead. of come we fire the Steets of 10 hard a Compage - in duenus te. but otherwise on wree - I had some indication of fever but amall ought . We duft, but the disgrace of our Coops - It would have all been seved had not tur best Bryand and Bolow (Omercans) bun detached mul to ruppert hideles - Iwel with this bun back five mintes when

last to leave the front line) would march of 8 8.m. The rower, however, 20 carrel the niver as to bruch of the postor bridges of which we had there laid at 4. S. Find, Em. Hotes that famil over Two Menton out of from his army bouch was in Command and we reca word while we stood shiving over ou megge fin (or sat when wel Cracker hoxes) That the crossing would be delaged - there or their hours - Then I way nen we would put out diste because I could be light long before the truly lived get over - and The Ivery Comed sails creat the grutes denoter & destruction - Fraid

to Eune that thet nothing In fact there was Coundwith Except a Kind Providuce of on opening in fruit 1 The left, But Improve Coned love us - 4+ 2 to Kebel Gray letresta a. m. wigh word that his That wery might to brooden\_ bridges hed here reconstructed ville, Officers from our Robert WE much wait for all The Corps on on right & reports being their cottelley & out hen. Thurty - Our Robot Plank road. I neve was so nigues troops wen left out and a of once as Down that nume Kund Providuce did love ing as The 5th 3d 2, 12" us in the bear of all portof 11 he best cer neared 4.5. abitities to the Contrary, wen And \_ The 5thos down Holum with the 12 Tops up in line upon the high Started and merches off ground to cover the coming I He ford before us, leaving but happily did not have The left which was through occasion to fire a gume. fortified I rested on the Our ortilley pested life moer Completely sy hour. This ride of the none of There also was a road further down find consider. and the most feorible point ably but with how wench for The Enemy to attack - the accasion or whol effects woods were not so thick.

the attack began when an right. If we had had this an one reserve once we could have kept our Newwe Phele (3 Letteric) in position and at wake and Fru perfectly Confident and have held our ground - 3 Kests ander I sushbe de did that to The lift fet title they won authorhed on both rives. 2 other Regiments of thutis Command return fighting For Dissau, my tentmote - (a Coplan Toid) was Killed very near one. I ous his body lying in the road but Could not soen have I hought every - His poor wife will hood general The thick - He had veryour the

fablett before rolely on her account but the world not accept his Eengrotio. In fact Cept Desson soid he would not leave just at end a time. This is brying to deview plans of reorganization of defferent Brigario Do as to have good Bryak Commonder and try to redeen our Character, in case another Chem is given as. all the Comy and of my from non The Country well follow built) is Euroing the Sutetimen - The first Bryis That broke too lumean but the other of The rome Dive which did no better was pune, America. Ponie thacker. I neve when harry but loved only the one we at a time & then he would fight.

5/8/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard *To:* Brother [Rowland B.

Howard]

CHH-100 Headquarters Eleventh

Corps

Near Brook's Station,

Va

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]

Near Brook's Station, Va., May 8 1863.

My dear brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

You must be aware that for the past week I have had no opportunity to write. Since the furious attack upon our Corps which began about 5 o'clock on Saturday neither my outward circumstances nor my feelings were favorable to letter writing. Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday we were more or less under fire. On Tuesday the Rebels showed a special design upon Otis. Finally shot Col Meysenburg's horse under him as he was by the General's side. After that Otis consented to go on foot when on the front and in certain range of the enemy's rifles.

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday until 3 o'clock Wed. morning we held the left with Gen. Slocum who was upon the extreme left. We were behind rifle pits but all the time expecting an attack and several times during night & day our Pickets were driven in.

Of course Otis felt the greatest anxiety for fear the troops would not stand even behind the impervious logs and earth which formed the "Rifle pit" so called and whenever firing commenced he would mount his horse & we would gallop to the point of attack in the greatest haste. I believe I will not attempt to give you a full account of the four days fighting today. I never experienced a more uncomfortable night than that of Tuesday May 5th. It began to rain in torrents in the afternoon. I was riding to find out a route by which to withdraw our Corps through the woods to U.S. Ford which was to be undertaken that night. I got thoroughly drenched. My feet as wet as if I had been wading a river. It continued to rain all night. We had been notified that our Corps which was to have been the next to the last (but in the event was the last to leave the front line) would march at 8 P.M. The rain, however, so raised the river as to break up the pontoon bridges of which we had these laid at U.S. Ford. Gen. Hooker had passed over & was therefore cut off from his army. Couch was in command and we rec'd word while we stood shivering over our meager fire (or sat upon wet cracker boxes) that the crossing would be delayed two or three hours. Then I was sure we would meet with disaster because it would be light long before the army could get over. And the enemy could easily create the greatest disorder & destruction. I said to General Schurz that nothing except a kind Providence could save us. At 2 A.M. we got word that two bridges had been reconstructed. We must wait for all the Corps on our right & it was three before I led out Gen Schurz. Our pickets were left out and a kind Providence did save us in the face of all probabilities to the contrary. Gen. Slocum with the 12th Corps started and marched off to the Ford before us, leaving the left which was strongly fortified & rested on the river completely exposed.

There also was a road and the most feasible point for the enemy to attack. The woods were not so thick. In fact there was considerable of an opening in front of the left. But I suppose the Rebel army retreated that very night to Gordonville. Officers from our Pickets reported hearing their artillery & trains in motion upon the Plank road.

I never saw so many troops at once as I saw that morning as the 5th, 3d, 2nd, 12th & 11th Corps all neared U.S. Ford. The 5th was drawn up in line upon the high ground to cover the crossing but happily did not have occasion to fire a gun.

Our artillery posted upon this side of the river & further down fired considerably but with how much occasion or what effect I do not know. Once over we had 13 miles to march to reach our camp. We got into camp before 9 that night. Got up a few Hd. qrs tents. Got something to eat & were all soon sound asleep. I believe it was after 9 next morning when Otis waked me by passing his hand over my

forehead.

Of course we feel the effects of so hard a campaign - in dullness etc. but otherwise are well. I had some indication of Fever but am all right. We deeply feel the disgrace of our Corps.

It would have all been saved had not our best Brigade and Barlon (Americans) been detached & sent to support Sickles. I went with Otis to put it in position & we had not been back five minutes when the attack began upon our right. If we had had this our only reserve and our most reliable Brigade we could have kept our reserve artillery (3 batteries) in position and at work and I am perfectly confident could have held our ground. 3 Regts under Bushbeck did stick to the rifle pits till they were outflanked on both sides. 2 other Regiments of Schutz's command retired fighting.

Poor Dessour, my tentmate (a Captain & aid) was killed very near me. I saw his body lying in the road but could not even have it brought away. His poor wife will hardly survive the shock. He had resigned the Sabbath before solely on her account but Otis would not accept his resignation. In fact Capt. Dessour said he would not wish to leave just at such a time.

Otis is trying to devise plans of reorganization of different Brigades so as to have good Brigade Commanders and try to redeem our character in case another chance is given us.

All the army (and I suppose soon the Country will follow suit) is cursing the "Dutchmen". The first Brigade that broke was German but the others of the same Divn which did no better was purely American. Panic stricken. I never worked harder but could only stop one man at a time & then he wouldn't fight.

I will not write more. It is still stormy. Wish you could come & see us. All the Hospitals are near here.

Love to Ella.

We will be able to take the offensive in a fortnight.

Affectionately, C.H. Howard

el Howard Al have the best of ford on hand always when see wished Headquarters Eleventh Corps. 1863. to rat - I men be wronging the mon but the bouth is wee half Hower part of the true I now bee home May down mother At has been adopted the old plan of beering ourselves with a warm pleasant day. The one of our number for a how had services at one Ad. leaterer. There are uveral pro, as usual, the Bond nurses at these Hd.gr. of the 33 Mass which duy Counits of sai. O. O. H. plays so beautifully was St. Col Asmussen - St. Col. Meysen. en attendance. Bev. Her burg - Mejer Whotterey, Captering Warren of the Christian leoninister been Thuson I suffeth I muself. Jenen in all - but we have loboring in the hospitals Company as table olmest plays many of which - in bust all Todas we had hos officers The General Hospitals of the from the sea Div. bendes the anny on located he the poo leties & It. Parker. NE progred from what witered, the general Hofetes Olowland and the guasa home all the wort court not so well nor in to good the nich and all the wounded its as at vome times. The Except meda, here kun an always many for any thing

Conveyed to trastungtin a father noth. When con-Test of a long sulomp ment (like a longer) for a Cerps - Whe Hospite lent, on come 20 by 12 put or prohops longer. These in this vicinity look being ned y comfatable. this butened bereting our John Hughte dis J. M. Me had the great rains of two teries of cervices and at driver today. Mrs her. Borlow and Mrs Forter wofe of Lieil. Parter of The Regulor Grony. Mrs. Tosher was an acquain Hays with Mr. B. hower not for from hen although Dr. Parker belloup to gnother Dir. Vonte loves, He pets Leave to

wish his wife often how that we are doing but Little, I think ou will Unewher Eine Borlow do now Commends but of our Ogregares and was formedly Volonel of my Regiment, 61th n. Y. - was with us at fair Ooks. He is a hove & good officer. Mr. B. is avery most women. The leached the Autiction buttle build the rest day ofter the fight and was in time to lote Con of her husboard who was wounded very revenly. leaft Inffeth (lide) proids for our title now true like It much bette then when me boarded with a men-as nier. It was hel for the interest of the leaters to

of this kind . We wish be charge and lafty. In this terrible aco and Expecially the sad leverse, to one ause we find a great dreft wfor our Chris tion Frith and the and Inverted our and still trust That had will an The End prosper our glowing cause, It was a timbe blow to This to have his torps to hops were to rutuit to an inglinous teleson to the old court & give up the he had we will never heart tis seed, to do his port biguras, when the time It is very quet here - Then Iwish Rowland coved come Tree as tring lugar wee.

I think it likely that we may Uman hou for some time, If we went to have It though have been done gweek or two a go - to take it borten of thonomer's rais, I the description of the Ribel army from the fatter. Dit jen jet the \$100 doft on the Intune associatie? Affect at live any mon to send at present in I much of propries alles for another home they owning two. O now I som to fow rights since of fickle Huggs. It is not a good place for him. My a prisoner - Token while Corning for the wondered Boxe saw on action one tolland - Your Affetherete In left Hand

5/17/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-101 Headquarters Eleventh

Corps

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead] May 17th, 1863.

My dear Mother,

It has been a warm pleasant day. We have had services at out Hd. qrs., as usual. The Band of the 33d Mass which plays so beautifully was in attendance. Rev. Mr. Warren of the Christian Commission officiated who has been laboring in the hospitals many of which - in fact all the General Hospitals of the Army - are located in this vicinity. The General Hospitals have all the worst cases of sick and all the wounded except such as have been conveyed to Washington - farther North. They consist of a large encampment (like a brigade) for a Corps. The Hospital tents are some 20 by 12 feet or perhaps larger. These in this vicinity look very neat & comfortable. Otis intends visiting our Corps hospital this P.M.

We had the great rarity of two ladies at services and at dinner today. Mrs. Genl. Barlow and Mrs Parker wife of Lieut. Parker of the Regular Army. Mrs. Parker was an acquaintance of Mrs. Barlow - and stays with Mrs B in a house not far from here although Lt. Parker belongs to another Divn. & another Corps. He gets Leave to visit his wife often now that we are doing but little. I think you will remember Gen. Barlow who now commands one of our Brigades and was formerly Colonel of my Regiment, 61st N.Y. - was with us at Fair Oaks. He is a brave & good officer. Mrs. B. is a very smart woman. She reached the Antietam battle field, the next day after the fight and was in time to take care of her husband who was wounded very severely.

Capt. Griffeth (aide) provides for our table now & we like it much better than when we boarded with a man - as on the recent campaign of river. It was not for the interest of the Caterer to have the best of food on hand always when we wished to eat. I may be wronging the man but the truth is we half starved part of the time & now we have adopted the old plan of feeding ourselves with one of our number for a Caterer. There are several messes at these Hd. qrs. Ours consists of Gen. O.O.H., Lt Col Asmussen, Lt. Col. Meysenburg, Major Whittlesey, Captains Stinson & Griffeth & myself. Seven in all, but we have company at table almost always. Today we had two officers from the old Divn. besides the two ladies & Lt. Parker.

We judged from what Rowland wrote that you are not so well nor in so good spirits as at some times. We are always sorry for any thing of this kind. We wish & pray that you may always be cheerful and happy.

In this terrible war and especially the sad reverses to our cause we find a great draft upon our Christian Faith and Hope and I may add often our Christian forbearance. But we still hold on and still trust that God will in the end prosper our glorious cause.

It was a terrible blow to Otis to have his Corps so signally fail. It was perhaps worse to submit to an inglorious return to the old camp & give up the campaign. But trusting in God we will never be utterly discouraged and now Otis keeps up good heart & is ready to do his part vigorously when the time shall come.

It is very quiet here. I hear some of the servants singing hymns. I wish Rowland could come & see us & bring Guy or Grace.

I think it likely that we may remain here for some time. If we were to move it should have been done a week or two ago. To take advantage of Stoneman's raid & the discomfiture of the Rebel army from the battles.

Did you get the \$100 draft on the Tribune association? I shall not have any more to send at present as I think of paying Otis for another horse, thus owning two.

I saw Perry a few nights since at Sickles Hd. qrs. It is not a good place for him. My old schoolmate

Melville Morrill is a prisoner - taken while caring for the wounded. Hope you are writing me today.

Your Affectionate Son, C.H. Howard

Gun Coldwie of the Dir. Headquarters Eleventh Corps, THoucock of The Copps -Rear Broke Station Va, lunch beny on Leave. They June 3d 18/13. gom the leve a Review of My dear brother Then being down at in hot ME wire low synon Le addressed glad to get you tetter dinothem a ben words with a Clist to the but intended for good deal of feeling, They your I thought. Church bein most overfer I hough it is quit core ourly before and ofter and and Comfatateller, Theor the The Officers friend we at a Kind of Collation of & hands playing in alword led bross' ofterwards. Me Swany direction and I I Enjoyed it all and my good Comed love the Consciousness Chiefly become all memories that we were in the windst Connected with the Brigade of hideous was for Liften

do) if would be quite bless Porth. I've more on Hel. ant. You sheak of gove fature you tominon into the woods occupation. I see no obening not more Than 1/4 mule from in the army for you but some here. On menday we etthing may get turn up". lender a colebration of the Anniversing of Four Oute, with Otis wrote in ourse to some ou de Brigio of the prode cote themes on the 2nd of - Tou rementer the subject - that he thought his 5th n. H. 61 Hay an 1. 4. X duty long in the Field and 81 P.V. - it love do not -That some one dre letter of least 2 con never forbe relected as the nomine get them . Our relations for Grownor , Tou wave line windlings the pleasentsty not to give one openion they blowed worther the as to his accepting. www. but levous is now I have you mestowed the a Command the Brugete Jenier degnity while of

June 63 (5-) John pleasett They have never Their their their the country and cettle, The Thiers gon bythythan wond of A that the her is had come over the Men i He mentions in his Shad the names of some of the Thathe dead - It was sent to the Withou reduced a humbers the Bright Noted become - There Less now Then then was in one Regt (H. 5th, H.) a little mon thou a year ago. Then wan some ledy thectiles 45 orde on bremes of other Concurs and their Hoffs. No knowly , Dive is not to be ex-Chapt the her the the of wor his butt consent to it when this orker Them. But when he political to the lost, he found that Schutz's ded seek went I to go we he gow of the colon, how I down very sorry, It was not don became we find that toluty her

his best to get Lugel back - He is coming this quel and call both mach of his aiflure then in the Commend X La clas with the Pas. He seems to have whomas his hithering characte withith Monthy the high Lotes I feel had of him and his great petentis of friendlight to the General. This is a matter gan much not talk of and of the family, He did nothing in the battle Tel I Burmine Atthe her line criticing the General's dishontions &c. to the Ver. & Liegel. WE (11the ops ) on building personent for tification - On will be nowed for leaft. Dessauer (hide delouf) If you eur unit this he neve and muche the name plane for it was given Dessous before in my acch of the battle - Other forts will be nound for bevlouds thicke in bette, but the the Post of Veneral them again to many front theme of the theory on the transform the trois 6/3/1863 From: C.H. Howard To: Brother [Rodelphus

Gilmore]

CHH-103 Headquarters Eleventh

Corps

Near Brooke Station Va

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead] Near Brooke Station VA, June 3d 1863.

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

We were glad to get your letter directed to Otis, but intended for me I thought.

Tonight it is quite cool and comfortable. I hear the bands playing in almost every direction and if I could lose the consciousnous that we were in the midst of hideous war (as I often do) it would be quite pleasant. You speak of your future occupation. I see no opening in the Army for you but something may yet "turn up".

Otis wrote in answer to some private catechisms on the subject - that he thought his duty lay in the Field and that some one else better be selected as the nominee for Governor. You were wise not to give any opinion as to his accepting.

I hear you sustained the Senior dignity while at Bath.

We move our Hd. grs tomorrow into the woods not more than 1/4 mile from here.

On Monday we attended a celebration of the Anniversary of Fair Oaks with our old Brigade of the 2nd Corps. You remember the 5th N.H. 61st & 64th N.Y. & 81st P.V. If you do not at least I can never forget them. Our relations were always the pleasantest & they almost worship the Genl. Col. Cross is now in command of the Brigade, Gen Caldwell of the Divn. & Hancock of the Corps - Couch being on Leave. They gave the Genl a Review & then being drawn up in hollow square he (Otis) addressed them in a few words with a good deal of feeling. They cheered him most vociferously before and after and the Officers joined us at a kind of collation [a light meal] at Col. Cross' afterwards.

We enjoyed it all exceedingly - chiefly because all newcomers connected with the Brigade were pleasant. They have never turned their backs in battle. The officers gave us the warmest of greetings, & seemed much gratified that the Gen'l had come over to see them. He mentioned in his speech the names of some of the noble dead. It was sad to see how reduced in numbers the Brigade had become. There are less now than there was in one Reg't (the 5th N.H.) A little more than a year ago. There were some lady spectators as well as Generals of other commands and their staffs.

No, Schurz's Div'n is not to be exchanged tho' the Pres. & Sec. of War did both consent to it when Otis asked them. But when he returned to the Corps he found that Schurz's did not want to go so he gave up the idea. Now I am very sorry it was not done because we find that Schurz has been working against Otis & trying his best to get Siegel back. He is causing Otis great anxiety both on acct. of his influence there in the command and also with the Pres.

He seems to have retained his politician's character notwithstanding the high hopes I first had of him and his great pretentions of friendship to the General.

This is a matter you must not talk of out of the family.

He did nothing in the battle & yet I surmise that he has been criticizing the General's dispositions &c. to the Pres. & Siegel.

We (11th Corps) are building permanent fortifications. One will be named for Capt. Dessauer (aide de camp). If you ever write this be sure and make the name plain for it was given Dessous in the Press

before in my acct of the battle. Other forts will be named for Colonels killed in the last battle.

Give my love to Lizzie & Hattie <Potter> if you see them again - to Miss Frost & family & accept any amount to yourself.

From your Aff. bro C.H. Howard

P.S. How does the Prophecy come on? Maj. W's resignation not yet accepted. Otis not very well today - Diarrhea. I am well.

P.S. Please send this to mother if convenient. C.H.H.

Mendounriers Eleventh Corps.

Na., 1863. Them from reciding oney troops Trest. There is omitthe Exhedi' the or foot with rive which is a sent here. We und Mi 33 d moss, toda & up mon then best way to The very Toler K. K. to Shottest Jones when it Elever received letter from is to report to sen. ames ( are gesterday. It received as I Think I have written Sgood to see a long letter I'm familia hand but was sent for at Hushi's s unting again. We were Ad. Gr, the momany & also gratified of your peren is put in charge of some If we and the for from important movement on a of mund. Were hate. comparativity much scale. filled, thuring as the or Oto four had Dianhen Vierticulary the, have but was heller gesterdy to gong Iment toda, I am wall Wignered died of verotion and formy you got an empression sources of lete, I thente Hat Iwe, not well from of how mostly present carry he forg interval in assituy seen - Il is about all I think you will have recie Numous and En Schutz home letters before this;

The German in hew York an all fetched in the Made had a meeting in which of hees while we have In opining in fruit going The possed resolutions replie ting muenthat whom the Werent - Commander of the of a house formerly but is 11th Coops and entrenature now in the much of the Woods, Testente, Soming, thent, that it would have done hetter under Siegel. I o'clush on & began to I have no doubt it will all remel orythe. hear reprie artilly fring It is a beautifue day. near Friderickburg . Ite has for howe morel our Hace hun to Gan, Hooken & in grs. Inoved June 4 th the bonner and know Lot Evening had the Bond that it was an fel fops hen I have beare, Mr. Memphing or making a show of crossing show Borlow (sup of tecu. B.) and I mules below It. We her mis. Parker link of St Port of the Regular army). It of no commeties throtally was the redding ourserson much Huster made all the demonstration that he arters for him, Joshen. We low at that point. It is Ferfe avor a Chamining Hot for Adign, in the lents are how to lear the whereotists of the surening and brevent mongrd kuri-circle and

6/6/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-104 Headquarters Eleventh

Corps

Near Brook's Station,

Va

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead] Near Brooke's Station, Va., June 6th, 1863

My dear Mother,

Otis & I both received letters from you yesterday. It seemed good to see a long letter in your familiar hand - writing again. We were also gratified at your peaceful and cheerful frame of mind. It was particularly cheering as we or particularly Otis has had a great deal of vexation and anxiety of late. I think it has mostly passed away now. It is about the Germans and Gen. Schurz. The Germans in New York had a meeting in which they passed resolutions reflecting somewhat upon the present commander of the 11th Corps and intimated that it would have done better under Siegel.

I have no doubt it will all result rightly.

It is a beautiful day & we have moved our Hd qrs. <moved> June 4th. Last evening had the Band here & two ladies Mrs Barlow (wife of Gen. B.) And Mrs. Parker (wife of Lt. Parker of the Regular army). It was the wedding anniversary for Mrs. Parker. We have now a charming spot for Hd. qrs. Our tents are arranged in a semi-circle and are all pitched in the shade of trees which we have an opening in front grassy & level. It was the site of a house formerly but is now in the midst of the woods.

Yesterday evening about 5 o'clock we began to hear rapid artillery firing near Fredericksburg. Otis had been to Gen. Hooker's in the forenoon and knew that it was the First Corps attempting on making a show of crossing about 2 miles below F. We hear of no casualties & probably Gen. Hooker made all the demonstration that he intends at that point. It is I suppose to learn the whereabouts of the enemy and preventing them from sending any troops West.

There is another expedition on foot up river which is a secret here. We sent the 55th Mass. today up more than half way to the Orange & Alexa. R.R. to Spotted Tavern where it is to report to Gen. Ames who is one of our Brigadiers as I think I have written but was sent for at Hooker's Hd. qrs. this morning & is put in charge of some important movement on a comparatively small scale.

Otis has had Diarrhea, but was better yesterday & is quite smart today. I am well. Sorry you got an impression that I was not well from the long interval in writing. I think you will have rec'd some letters before this.

Capt Stinson goes with the Regt this P.M. to Spotted Tavern. I have an easy life now in Camp. Have been studying French somewhat. Have enough to do to keep my horses & myself in sufficient exercise. We have been a little on the alert of late & are now under marching orders – i.e. to be ready to move upon short notice. One Corps (5th) is already up river – part at Kelly's Ford where we crossed first in the last campaign.

We have such a lovely camp here now I fear we will move very soon. I say fear & yet I am ready at any time. Captain Griffiths A.D.C. [Aide de Camp] of the staff has been intending to bring his wife down but this order will prevent for the present. He has a log house with canvass roof attached to his tent.

Mrs Gen'l Schurz, Mrs. Gen. Steinweher & many other ladies are visiting their husbands. The firing last night frightened some of them so much that they decided to start for home today. We had a pleasant evening. The ladies I mentioned are quite interesting and you know almost any lady-like ladies are interesting to officers who have been so long beyond the pale of civilized society. Mrs. Perry Lee is still at Hd. Qrs. 3d Corps. Sickles is absent on Leave & Perry is still serving on the staff. His resignation was refused unless he could get higher rank in the Navy & this he is now trying for. I was glad to hear

from Mr Chapin. Poor Adna. He has had a strange lot in this life. I am glad Roland is going to build a new house.

Give my love to him & Cynthia & their little ones. Is father - How is his hand?

I saw Thomas <Bures> the other day over near the 2nd Corps Hospital sitting upon the ground with his brother in law, Tho's Rose. They knew me & I had quite a talk with them. Had not seen Thomas before since his return. He is now Company Cook & had come over to see Tho's Rose who is sick in Hospital or rather convalescent. His back is not strong & he (Rose) expects a discharge.

With great affection Yr. aff. son. C. H. Howard

The state of the s Shops you will have beened by Helegroph bufon this reacher, Jane If the movements of thather's any. But seiting has offered in the I hopen get. Testerday (Tunday) we smuched 18 or 19 miles - Trocce weathetts thehow to the filece. The day before we marched from when Harwood Church and thick the I. R. at leatlett - a distance of If miles. HE left our old land Frem Brook 's Hoten on Friday The 12 mit. Me had just get tried up in Elegant objle in our The Camp - Helign being in the woods when a lovely shell Has Mr. Lee vice assur good How we her for the write us

there and spect one night. The 3 loops (in which is Terry) had moved . The day before and The I monded some day with at taking another route - both these Corps striking The Naya Taley " R. R. at Beather 16 miles over the Kappahound There we. The 5th had been at sin for some truck of testerday it storted on The moral in This direction. I her olive that the 2nd the which win on our prost at falmouth start ed gesterday. We Communicated with ren. Hocher at Dunifries gesterden (by telegraph vin Mochington) and his Hd. grs, on to be at tain fox lovet House trought. WE (the year thoff ) amount here about 4 F.m. gesterday . True liber -Crombie who is in command her Traving our Bryes her , and blow. tilly (25th 27 thome) and a third of union miles) was completely surprised not being awan of any morement of

Morning that See Rebel) has aur anny. mont the ment of his trong up the Reppelounde and as nearly as or con excertain our cute themandoch Velley. There is some thouse of his attempting to committerough Theraughten But which is in right about 15 miles from from Is wich we now worth with great interest. Then is a Bright of our Caraling I a horse buttery at the Sup who Could give alone in due time & herhaps hunder the grandy There for some time. The had some hypestation of being rent to aldie which is the next get at the new. Otis had a squadra of lavary red then at 12 last-right. This 29 miles distent. But we do not leave honting that we have come who the valley of he may be whening to desuforce

Tragg against Hosenesans in the West. prom which we that the finite Battle on war in - weedly two years ago - Wehen Heligen, in a home - and firste - The woman wing ladylike Tland. It is enterinty het today we on bery glade be do not have to be on the mord - Testerder, was not so not. Ism. Annes has rejoined us after accompanying the wooling dark actors The Roppe Louncak - teapt, Stune west with him tall come buck the Exapt- there of our theyt (33 " hears) wound det a las mouments depend setting when the snewy so Dearnot live ton long we will rement how or when one will go - The 1t looks amont today Them. Reynolds is now down their in the Parler luthing with this. He (Im. R.) has lead com-never of the Kight tring of the commy while it has been to far thereties - I suffer our tore is charged opin Tagnia has been a vice be given of . (he mayin 1though)

6/15/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-105 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Centerville, Va

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Centerville, Va June 15 1863

My dear Mother,

I received your letter mailed June 9th this afternoon. Perhaps you will have learned by telegraph before this reaches you of the movements of Hooker's army. But nothing has appeared in the papers yet. Yesterday (Sunday) we marched 18 or 19 miles. From Catlett's Station to this place. The day before we marched from near Hartwood Church and struck the R.R. at Catlett's - a distance of 19 miles. We left our old Camp near Brooke's Station on Friday the 12th inst. We had just got fixed up in elegant style in our new camp. Hd. qrs. being in the woods upon a lovely spot as Mrs. Lee will assure you if you see her for she visited us there and spent one night. The 3d Corps (in which is Perry) had moved the day before and the 1st marched same day with us taking another route - both these Corps striking the Orange & Alexa R.R. at Bealton, 10 miles nearer the Rappahannock than we. The 5th had been up river for some time & yesterday it started on the march in this direction. I hear also that the 2nd & 6th which were on our front at Falmouth started yesterday. We communicated with Gen. Hooker at Dumfries yesterday (by telegraph via Washington) and his Hd. qrs. are to be at Fairfax Court House tonight.

We (the Genl & staff) arrived here about 4 P.M. yesterday. Gen. Abercrombie who is in command here (having our Brigade here, one at Chantilly (25th & 27th Maine) and a third at Union Mills) was completely surprised not being aware of any movement of our army.

It seems that Lee (Rebel) has moved the most of his army up the Rappahannock and as nearly as we can ascertain over into Shenandoah Valley. There is some chance of his attempting to come through Thoroughfare Gap which is in sight about 15 miles from here & which we now watch with great interest.

There is a Brigade of our Cavalry & a horse battery at the Gap who could give alarm in due time & perhaps hinder the enemy there for some time. We had some expectation of being sent to Aldie which is the next gap in the mountains above Thoroughfare where the enemy can come through. Otis had a squadron of Cavalry sent there at 12 last night. It is 20 miles distant.

But we do not learn positively that Lee has come into the Valley & he may be intending to reinforce Bragg against Rosecrans in the West.

Here we are back to the point from which we started on the morning after the first Battle we were in nearly two years ago. We have Hd. qrs. in a house - union people. The woman very ladylike & kind.

It is intensely hot today & we are very glad we do not have to be on the march. Yesterday was not so hot.

Gen. Ames has rejoined us after accompanying the Cavalry dash across the Rappahannock. Capt. Stinson went with him & all came back safe except three of our Regt (33d Mass) wounded. Our movements depend entirely upon the enemy so I cannot tell how long we will remain here or when we will go. The 1st Corps arrived today & Gen. Reynolds is now down stairs in the Parlor talking with Otis. He (Gen. R.) Has had command of the Right Wing of the army which it has been so far separated. I suppose our base is changed again & again has been or will be given up.

Rowland was expected to start today to visit us. Perhaps he will hear of the movement & not come. Otis thought I better not telegraph for Rowland would enjoy coming to see us wherever we might be. I doubt if I have any money to send this month. I paid for my horse - also half for an oil painting we presented to Mrs. Lee & to some other large extras which consumes my pay. There is a good breeze so in the house we are quite comfortable. I think I shall take to write in Blue pen today. Do you see Isabelle? I hope Clark will apply for a commission in the Invalid Corps. If he would like I can get a

recommendation for him from Otis if he would like. How is his foot? We could hardly keep in mind that yesterday was Sabbath Day - being on the march.

Write often to your affectionate Son.

C. H. Howard

P.S. Maj. Whittlesey left for home the day before the move. His resignation accepted. We miss him much.

Ceamp of Goose Cercek Va June 19 1883 My dear mother the morch! from Cembrioth to The White (16 miles) on Weds, Our Covalny would forward to Lees Lung (about 6 miles) sesting Robel Caraly - We day dun all day youter Hooher is wasting of free but other the sidely to & what he is going to do. hallis This 12th at Drains will - Reynoldy (Pt) at Coulford Statem - the at-

Irap Ruck on Evon bruk 5th (Mends) at burn from Me her I finner gester to have the Comme the Plesanton (with Geraly) met the sweety comes d- aldie successful P. L Ceve. Dought wa Kills of Maine Gods I rade 20 miles yester to see gun, Reynoted - 41 we use hot The day before wed 10 in midde of day toenor, The 16 miles marchy in order to anot a guspeoted at ing on who and him in It Robel service - ) look a bew lavaling,

to is wife & dangliters berought me to but him will and dot him Com leade Musica ing promise and to leave home . He left the Real serand a gar ogo about - Our Mraggles has been picked with by Them tylindy on of the Holy a mici min i the mythe I wonder of Rowland i. of Westington - INE got no legala mail the I los hoppe to get a alter from you while at teen Cerrille - Group Bills

66 looked will - has not in any but fighting at Chan cellowill - Whoh with This summy to be great some in Prana It will do good furhops - It romeres us when he lean thing is so mall a force corred to Those was he will be WA Howard

6/19/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-107 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Camp at Goose Creek

zamp at 0003e Ch

Va

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Camp at Goose Creek Va June 19 1863

My dear Mother,

We marched from Centerville to this place (16 miles) on Weds. Our Cavalry went forward to Leesburg (about 6 miles) yesterday and drove out twenty of Rebel Cavalry. We lay down all day yesterday. Hooker is waiting to find out where the enemy is & what he is going to do. So all the Corps were halted - the 12th at Dranesville, Reynolds (1st) at Guilford Station, we at Trap Rock on Goose Creek, 5th (Meade) at Gum Spring. We heard firing yesterday & have since learned that Pleasanton (with Cavalry) met the enemy's Cavalry at Aldie successfully but Col. Doughty was killed of 1st Maine Cavalry. I rode 20 miles yesterday to see Gen. Reynolds. It was very hot.

The day before I rode 10 m in middle of the day (besides the 16 miles march) in order to arrest a suspected citizen who had been in the Rebel service. I took a few Cavalry. His wife & daughters besought me to treat him well and let him come back speedily. He was sent back on making promise not to leave home. He left the Rebel service a year ago.

The guerillas are all about. Our stragglers have been picked up by them & yesterday one of the staff was fired at. We had a nice rain in the night. I wonder if Rowland is at Washington. We get no regular mail tho' I was happy to get a letter from you while at Centerville. George Bates looked well. Was not in any hot fighting at Chancellorsville. Spoke with a great deal of feeling of his Aunt Jane's death.

There seems to be a great scare in Penna. It will do good perhaps. It amuses us when we learn there is so small a force across the river.

Hope will be able to see Rowland.

In haste but very Affectionately yr. Son. C. H. Howard