

Ind.
via Richmond, (this place).

From Columbus I telegraphed Uncle Henry to meet us at Dayton so we could at least see him as we travelled on the cars. We still had a passenger car all to ourselves, though this time not a sleeping car.

We reached Dayton at about 8 in the evening but could not find Uncle Henry. We were accommodated there (in the city which Valandigham calls home) by Union ways ^{from} the young ladies, and all the bags were humming for Brough (pronounced "Bruff") who is the Republican Candidate for Governor in opposition to Valandigham.

At a town ~~when~~ the train paused a few moments - say half an hour - just before sunset. Xenia this - we had

a perfect ovation. Ladies gentlemen & children thronged the train its whole length of some 30 cars and looked down the aisles, with all kinds of eatables. When they found Gen. Howard was on board the Ladies all came along in succession to shake hands with him as he stood on the platform of the rear car. They heaped upon us their gifts of pies, cakes - Bread & butter - sandwiches, Apples, peaches and most abundantly grapes.

A dozen or so of the little girls brought paper for the General to write his name upon - which he did for as many as he could until the ^{am.} cars left.

It was past 9^{am.} before we

8
Regular trains being all in-
complete now by this transport-
ing of troops. So we took
another R.R. by which we
rode till about midnight - it
being the 5th night I had
spent on the cars. We then
stopped at a R.R. junction at
Anderson till 3 1/2 in the morn-
ing during which time I got some
good sleep, having an excellent
bed on the floor. It was rainy
when we got up and started for
Richmond - We found Corrie
& little Annie were - The last
is ^a very bright, active little girl.

Yesterday I visited with Henry &
Moll. Riding down about a mile -
They have a good house & very
neat garden and front - yard -
a fine piano. Corrie plays somewhat.

May write again from here.

Your affectionate son
C. H. Howard

5
fearful that everything
would not work well
at Indianapolis where all
the freight, boxes &c. had
to be changed expressly as
our train had to be divided
on account of being too heavy
and thereby four cars of boxes
were separated from the rest
for a time - and so he
thought I better go on.

Soon after one A.M. we
were on our way & I had a
good sleep till we drew
near Indianapolis.

I will not attempt a
minute description of that
days work - I had the
superintendence of everything -
We had about a hundred &
fifty men. This did not
get along so soon as he
expected and I went off

6
our train as soon as it was
relieved - leaving the remain-
der of the horses to be reunited
with those which had been
detached also reserving a car
of grooms with forage - The
horses came & with them I com-
bined a battery of artillery &
made up another train to
which I attached a passenger
car & expected Otis would
go with me, Capt. Thurman &
one other Officer in that.

The rest of the Staff went
on with the first train.

But when Henry came with
Otis & several gentlemen he
met urging him to remain
over until evening, he de-
cided to do so - So the
second train went on in charge
of the Battery Officer and
all returned to the

7
Bates Hotel when we
had also got our Breakfasts.

I found there that Uncle
Henry had proposed to Otis
to leave me behind for a
week or more if he could.

Aunt Martha was not
at home & so had not
seen Otis. She had gone
to Cincinnati with Lizzie
not to return till next
Saturday. After considerable
debating of the matter in his
own mind Otis decided for
me to stay. He with Capt.
Thurman & Capt. Powers had
a car & left about 8 P.M.

He saw Governor Morton of
this State before leaving. I
am to remain till next
Monday. Uncle Henry &
I could not return by the
most direct Rail Road the

10/4/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-298

Richmond, Indiana

Richmond, Indiana

Oct. 4 1863

My dear Mother [Eliza Gilmore],

Here I am most unexpectedly making a visit at Uncle Henry Strickland's [the husband of Eliza Otis Gilmore's sister, Mary Jane Otis]. I am writing in Fred's office having come over from the house to see his shop (a Barrel mow factory) for the first time this morning. Yesterday morning soon after daylight I reached Richmond coming back from Indianapolis with Uncle Henry.

After writing you at Bellaire Ohio, that night about 11 o'clock our train started on its way to Indianapolis, Indiana, via Columbus & Dayton, Ohio, & via Richmond, Ind (this place). From Columbus I telegraphed Uncle Henry to meet us at Dayton so we could at least see him as we traveled on the cars. We still had a passenger car all to ourselves though this time not a sleeping car. We reached Dayton at about 8 in the evening but could not find Uncle Henry. We were serenaded there (in the city which Valondingham calls home) by Union songs from the young ladies and all the boys were hurraing for Brough (pronounced "Bruff") who is the Republican Candidate for Governor in opposition to Valondingham.

At a town where the train paused a few moments - say half an hour - just before sunset, Xenia Ohio, we had a perfect ovation. Ladies, Gentlemen & Children thronged the train its whole length of some 30 cars and loaded down the soldiers with all kinds of eatables. When they found Gen. Howard was on board the Ladies all came along in succession to shake hands with him as he stood on the platform of the rear car. They heaped upon us their gifts of pies, cakes, Bread & butter, sandwiches, apples, peaches and most abundantly grapes.

A dozen or so of the little girls brought paper for the General to write his name upon - which he did for as many as he could until the cars left.

It was past 9 p.m. before we left Dayton and soon after Otis & all the rest made up their couches & lay down for sleep, excepting me. I kept awake in order to see Uncle Henry or hear from him at Richmond. When we got near I awakened Otis & for a short distance we stood on the platform & viewed the country by the moon light. Soon after the train stopped, it being then past midnight, Uncle Henry & Fred came along to our car enquiring for Gen. Howard. Then Uncle Henry urged Otis to stay over & go to Indianapolis the next day in passenger train saying he would accompany him. Otis decided to stay and at first I hoped to remain too but Otis was fearful that everything would not work well at Indianapolis where all the freight horses &c had to be changed especially as our train had to be divided on account of being too heavy and thereby four cars of horses were separated from the rest for a time - and so he thought I better go on.

Soon after one A.M. we were on our way & I had a good sleep till we drew near Indianapolis

I will not attempt a minute description of that days work. I had the superintendence of every thing. We had above a hundred & fifty men. Otis did not get along so soon as he expected and I sent off our train as soon as it was reloaded reserving the remainder of the horses to be reunited with those which had been detached also reserving a car of grooms with forage. The horses came & with them I combined a battery of artillery & made up another train to which I attached a passenger car & expected Otis would go with me, Capt. Stinson & one other officer in that. The rest of the staff went on with the first train. But Uncle Henry came with Otis & several gentlemen he met urging him to remain over until evening, he decided to do so. So the second train went on in charge of the Battery Officer and we all returned to the Bates Hotel where we had also got our Breakfast.

I found there that Uncle Henry had proposed to Otis to leave me behind for a week or more if he could. Aunt Martha was not at home & so had not seen Otis. She had gone to Cincinnati with Lizzie not to return till next Saturday. After considerable debating of the matter in his own mind Otis decided for me to stay. He with Capt. Stinson & Capt. Powers had a car & left about 8 P.M. He saw Governor Morton of this state before leaving. I am to remain till next Monday. Uncle Henry & I could not return by the

most direct Rail Road the regular trains being all conscripted now by this transporting of troops. So we took another R.R. by which we rode till about midnight - it being the 5th night I had spent on the cars. We then stopped at a R.R. junction at Anderson till 3 ½ in the morning during which time I got some good sleep, having an excellent bed on the floor. It was rainy when we got up and started for Richmond. We found Carrie & little Annie well. The last is a very bright, active little girl.

Yesterday I visited Uncle Henry's mill, riding down about a mile. They have a good house & very neat garden and front-yard - a fine home. Carrie plays somewhat. I may write again from here.

Your Affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

P.S. Please tell father that they have started one of those national banks here & although there is a much greater call for the stock than can be met yet Uncle Henry thinks he could get some for me. He owns \$5,000 of it. The Interest here will be about 10 per cent. The U.S. 5-20 bonds (which they purchased) pay their regular 6 per ct. at avg rate. I want father to write me a letter telling me all about my stock & money. How much is due on his note and all, that I may have it on paper & not forget how my business stands. C.H.H.

4
of only 30 miles by the
River. But Gen. Rowcram,
has never repaired nor used
the R. R. beyond Bridgeport
and since his last great
battle the sneaky have come
in and taken possession of
that portion of the country -
on the South side of the
Tennessee - from Bridgeport
to Lookout Mountain. - Row-
cram's 'right vests upon this
Range of Mountains which
runs perpendicular to the
River. He gets his supplies
by going a round about way
among other mountain ranges
and through passes on
the North of the Tennessee.

father - I think the best
investment I could
make would be in
one of those
and much money can get
me \$1000 or above for all
I bought there
demanded for the stock;
It would pay 10 per cent.
There is some health
to write pretty often
in order to make it for
the Congress time. I shall take
in January, & go to
with me there as soon
as I can - Washington
all your affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

1863.

musseu, Balloch and some
others of the stoff but the
rest went through to Bridge-
port (120 miles) with the
General and the troops. ^{Left} last
Friday evening.

On Monday last ~~the~~ Rebel
force of Cavalry destroyed one

and perhaps more bridges just below Manufacturers and hence cutting off Rail Road Communication between this and Bridgeport. The Telegraph is also broken and we cannot connect with or get orders from the General. We have forage & rations enough but all the Artillery horses are left here - having reached this city from the East and North only last night.

I must wait here till the bridges & R.R. are repaired.
(Artillery)

Our ^{Artillery} horses may perhaps be sent by marching but they must rest a few days from their

terrible journey of a week upon the cars from which they are much weakened. Fortunately our own staff horses went on from here before the General and are now safe and for use at Bridgeport.

This latter place which you have probably never heard of before or none of us had, is at the point where the Nashville Rail Road first strikes the Tennessee River. It did have ^{R.R.} a bridge there and thence the Rail Road ran along on the South Side of the Tennessee River to Chattanooga, a dis-

10/7/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-114

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps
Assistant Inspector
General's Office
Nashville, Tenn

[This is the original in pen to 115.]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]
Assistant Inspector General's Office [letterhead]

Nashville, Tenn, Oct 7, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived here last night. Found Col. Asmussen, Balloch and some other of the staff, but the rest went through to Bridgeport (120 miles) with the General and the troops last week. Otis left here last Friday evening.

On Monday last a Rebel force of Cavalry destroyed one and perhaps more bridges just below Murfreesboro and hence cutting off Rail Road Communication between this and Bridgeport. The Telegraph is also broken and we cannot consult with or get orders from the General. He has forage & rations enough but all the artillery horses are yet here - having reached this city from the East and North only last night.

I must wait here till the bridges & R.R. are repaired. Our Artillery horses may perhaps be sent by marching but they must rest a few days from their terrible journey of a week upon the cars from which they are much weakened. Fortunately our own staff horses went on from here before the General and are now safe and for use at Bridgeport.

This latter place, which you have probably never heard of before as none of us had, is at the point where the Nashville Rail Road first strikes the Tennessee River. It did have a R.R. bridge there and thence the Rail Road ran along on the South side of the Tennessee River to Chatanooga, a distance of only 30 miles by the River. But Gen. Rosecrans has never repaired nor used the R.R. beyond Bridgeport and since his last great battle the Enemy have come in and taken possession of that portion of the country on the South side of the Tennessee - from Bridgeport to Lookout Mountain. Rosecrans' right rests upon this range of mountains which runs perpendicular to the River. He gets his supplies by going a round about way among other mountain ranges and through passes on the North of the Tennessee.

I am looking for a letter from father. I think the best investment I could make would be in one of those U.S. banks and Uncle Henry [Strickland] can get me \$1,000 at par although there is a great demand for the stock. It will pay 10 per cent.

How is your health, Mother? You will have to write pretty often now in order to make up for the long time letters take in coming. From Aunt Martha's [Martha Otis Strickland is Eliza Otis Gilmore's sister] to here takes about the same time as from home to Washington.

Love to all. Your affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

1863
Nashville: Tenn. Oct 7

My dear mother

Arrived here last night -
Found Col. Asmusen, Ballou
and some others of the staff
but the rest went through to
Bridgeport (120 miles) with the
General and the troops last
week. Otis left here last
Friday evening.

On Monday last a Rebel
force of Cavalry destroyed one
and perhaps more bridges
just below Murfreesboro and
hence cutting off Rail Road
communication between this
and Bridgeport - The Telegraph
is also broken and we cannot
connect with or get orders from
the General - He has forage

& rationed enough but all the artillery horses are yet here having reached this city from the East and North only last night -

I must wait here till the bridges & R. R. are repaired. Our artillery horses may perhaps be sent by marching but they must rest a few days from their terrible journey of a week upon the cars from which they are much weakened. Fortunately our own staff horses went on from here before the General and are now safe and for use at Bridgeport.

This latter place which you have probably never heard of before as none of us had,

a native house but all the
articles of furniture are of the
same material this is only from
the fact that only last
night.

I must wait here till the
bridge & R.R. are repaired. Our
articles of furniture were very
much damaged by water but they
must last a few days from
their terrible journey of a week
upon the cars from which
they are now removed.
Fortunately our own staff
has not been so far from the
before the house and we are
safe out for now at Bridgeport
this latter place which
we have probably never heard
of before or none of our kind.

is at the point where the Nashville
 Rail Road first strikes the
 Tennessee River - It did have
 a R.R. bridge then and thence
 the Rail Road ran along on
 the South side of the Tennessee
 River to Chattanooga, a distance
 of only 30 miles by the River -
 But Gen. Rosecrans has never
 repaired nor used the R.R.
 beyond Bridgeport and since
 his last great battle the
 enemy have come in and
 taken possession of that
 portion of the country on
 the South side of the Tennessee
 from Bridgeport to Lookout
 Mountain - Rosecrans' right
 rests upon this range of
 mountains which runs

at the point where the Kentucky
 and Great first strike the
 Tennessee River - It is here
 a R.R. bridge then cut across
 the Red Bank now along on
 the East side of the Tennessee
 River to Chattanooga, a distance
 of only 30 miles by the River.
 But the Government has never
 repaired nor used the R.R.
 except for freight and since
 in last great battle the
 enemy have come in and
 taken possession of that
 portion of the country on
 the East side of the Tennessee
 from Nashville to Lookout
 Mountain - Government's right
 rests upon this range of
 mountains which runs

perpendicular to the River - He gets his supplies by going a round about way among other mountain ranges and through passes on the North of the Tennessee.

I am looking for a letter from father - I think the best investment I could make would be in one of those U. S. bonds and Uncle Henry can get me \$1,000 at par although there is a great demand for the stocks. It will pay 10 per cent.

How is your health, Mother? you will have to write pretty often now in order to make up for the long time letters

paper - to the Chief - to
 get his supplies by going to
 about about many many things
 mountain range and through
 passes on the west of the
 mountains.

I am looking for a letter
 from father - I think the last
 investment I made was
 would be in one of these
 10. bonds and will buy
 about 1000 at 1000 at 1000
 although there is a great
 amount for the stock. It
 will pay 10 per cent.

There is your letter, mother!
 you will have to wait for it
 after you in order to make
 up for the long time letter

Take in coming - From
Aunt Martha's to here takes
about the same time as from
home to Washington. - Love
to all your affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

take in evening - From
out West to here take
about the same time as from
here to Washington - here
to all your affectionate son
Chas. H. Johnson

10/7/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-115

Nashville, Tenn

[This is a copy of a letter written in a different hand than CH Howard CHH-114.]

Nashville, Tenn, Oct 7, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived here last night. Found Col. Asmussen, Balloch and some other of the staff, but the rest went through to Bridgeport (120 miles) with the General and the troops last week. Otis left here last Friday evening.

On Monday last a Rebel force of Cavalry destroyed one and perhaps more bridges just below Murfreesboro and hence cutting off Rail Road Communication between this and Bridgeport. The Telegraph is also broken and we cannot consult with or get orders from the General. He has forage & rations enough but all the artillery horses are yet here having reached this city from the East and North only last night.

I must wait here till the bridges & R.R. are repaired. Our artillery horses may perhaps be sent by marching but they must rest a few days from their terrible journey of a week upon the cars from which they are much weakened. Fortunately our own staff horses went on from here before the General and are now safe and for use at Bridgeport.

This latter place, which you have probably never heard of before as none of us had, is at the point where the Nashville Rail Road first strikes the Tennessee River. It did have a R.R. bridge then and thence the Rail Road ran along on the South side of the Tennessee River to Chatanooga, a distance of only 30 miles by the River. But Gen. Rosecrans has never repaired nor used the R.R. beyond Bridgeport and since his last great battle the enemy have come in and taken possession of that portion of the country on the South side of the Tennessee from Bridgeport to Lookout Mountain. Rosecrans' right rests upon this range of mountains which runs perpendicular to the River. He gets his supplies by going a round about way among the mountain ranges and through passes on the North of the Tennessee.

I am looking for a letter from father. I think the best investment I could make would be in one of those U.S. banks and Uncle Henry [Strickland] can get me \$1,000 at par although there is a great demand for the stock. It will pay 10 per cent.

How is your health, Mother? You will have to write pretty often now in order to make up for the long times letters take in coming. From Aunt Martha's [Martha Otis Strickland is Eliza Otis Gilmore's sister] to here takes about the same time as from home to Washington.

Love to all. Your affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

14) It out I got on board the
engine and so went along - I
cannot describe minutely, here,
the Tunnel and all I did
and saw. It was 3000 ft.
long and wrought through solid
limestone. The light reflected
from the ground or rocks, and
travelling so far through the dark-
ness became precisely of the
same quality and appearance
as moonlight. The sound
from the engine - rocks, &c. falling
upon the car, were almost
deafening. I was surprised to
find at the other end of the
Tunnel a train of cars with
a thousand men from 11th Corps
and with them two of our
staff. Capt. Thurston was greatly
astonished, when, after climb-
ing over the length of the
train along the top of the cars

P.S. I was exceedingly glad
to get Dillie's letter just be-
fore I left Nashville. His
words are very cheering - also our friends
at home - How is Helen A.
I am afraid Dillie got fatigued
while in the hospital - as it seems that
to many ladies - as it seems that
with an increase in the number of
sufferers not only the number of
that formerly the hospital from
forming in the hospital - the
suffering - "Dee" - I mean the
those pertaining to the
the hospital - as it seems that
the hospital will be soon
the hospital for the treatment
those who have not so lately
were under the - A. H. H.

this place
this morning having started
from Nashville at ten A.M.
of Friday - The bridges burned
by the Rebel raiders were all
rebuilt so as to allow of
our passage that day and
before dark we had got
beyond the break - - but
the grades on the Nash-
ville & Chattanooga R.R.
are abrupt and as we had

a heavy train we progressed slowly and finally got stuck on a heavy up-grade between Wartrace and Tullahoma.

After several hours delay we were boosted on by another engine and stopped for Breakfast at Decher. The Conductor was hungry as well as the rest and so ^{as} accommodately as carelessly waited till a Breakfast was cooked at a folum shanty of a house - At Cowan, 4 miles below, we learned by telegraph that the Rebels had been ^{there in} the night and done damage to the R.R. in the Tunnel near that place - Perhaps the Conductor was more willing to delay owing to this report, owing to a ^{similar} report ^{received the evening before} and had brought troops of the 12th Corps from Wartrace to reinforce the

R.R. guards etc. Gen. Buford (Hooker's Chief of Staff) was in a train just in rear.

After a decent Breakfast of 50 cts (which seemed reasonable in comparison with other ^{meals} for which I had paid \$1.75 - and with the exorbitancy in Nashville) we went on to Cowan - found that the forts (not from the 11th or 12th Corps) had run away and the Rebels had thrown rocks, stones, dirt & timber down through two apertures or shafts (as I think they are called) running from above ^{perpendicularly} down into the Tunnel and through which the stones etc. were taken up in the construction of the Tunnel. This Tunnel was 2 1/2 miles from Cowan and when they took the engine & platform-car and went forward into the Tunnel to clear

4) Then came into my own tent
when I knew one - Found my
bed all made - My fur robe
not at all inappropriate and
even my double white blanket
not altogether useless - but
I assure you I slept soundly
from the time I was warmly re-
coured until day-light - Capt.
Thomson came about 6 a.m.
having remained behind with
the troops. He seemed very
cheerful but has a bad
cold - as also has pretty
much every one here - Mine
is about well - The scenery
here is fine - much of ^{it} approaching
to the truly picturesque - and as
we look from ~~the~~ fortified summit
where Hd. qrs. are located forth
upon the deep ^{flowing} Tennessee showing
itself at intervals among the forests
and hills, with the imposing
back-ground of a mountain.

I found him ⁽⁵⁾ on the one
next to the rear and
seized him by the hand
as he stood in the darkness
on a platform car - That
was after the train had moved
up into the Tunnel in an
attempt to get through where
we supposed we had got
the way clear. These troops
had come up to ^(the Rebels) meet the
Rebels, but they had escaped
before they arrived - It was
several hours before we
got off from Brown to
which place we returned
after the way was cleared;
Capt. S. accompanying me.
We got very hungry &
paid a woman 50 cts ^{apiece} for
a cup of very cloudy Tea and
two slices of hard-bread - alias "hard-
tack" - "pilot-bread" - "Soldier's hard-cakes" -

etc. The scenery was wild
and rugged - some of it pleas-
ing - after passing through
the Tunnel & after we began
to descend this side of the
mountains - It was similar
to that which we saw in crossing
the Alleghenies on the Baltimore
& Ohio R.R. - We were only
about 20 miles from Stevenson
when at the Tunnel - Stevenson
is the great depot for crossing
over. The junction of the Nashville
& Chattanooga & Memphis & Charleston
R.R. - and Gen. Hooker's
Hd. qrs. - It was dark before
we got there and 9 or 10 o'clock
before we got a train "made up"
to come down to Bridgeport - as
now it is a kind of branch R.R.
The main business terminating, of
course, at the grand depot for
the Army - and Stevenson is chosen
in preference to Bridgeport (altho

the latter is ^{somewhat} nearer Chattanooga)
because ^{from} Stevenson ^{there is} a better road
across the mountains to Chat-
anooga - I found it very
cold in the cars and of course
I was a little hungry - though
I did not mind that - but
it was very vexatious to be
from 10 P.M. till 2 A.M. in
going only 10 miles - The train
got thick on the road & leaving
the rear most half in which I
happened to be - came through - leav-
ing for us afterwards. This
had a light burning ^{in strict} & hearing
we came up called for me
^{saying} "Come in Charlie" - I found
he had a fireplace & a good fire
so I was glad enough to
come in - He gave him his letter
from Lizzie - talked a long
time till I got through & warm

- range, occasionally broken,
 but mounded by one still
 higher beyond and forming
 around ~~about~~, at a distance of
 from 2 to 3 miles an im-
 mense amphitheatre -
 such a view evokes in
 some of us emotions of
 the Grand - and some
 of the more excitable, (like
 your humble servant e.g.) may
 perhaps have been heard to
 exclaim in an enthusiastic under-
 tone - "Grand".

Today is warm - so that I
 am inclined to disrobe myself
 of the third wooden shirt which I
 have worn of late as my coat
 is not very thick and it became
 necessary for comfort to preserve all
 the caloric I could.

It is now near sun-set. We occupy a Rebel fort. Above the Tennessee river between us and the enemy - In fact only a few Rebel scouts show themselves and that usually upon some distant ridge or mountain. There is quite an extensive island in the river opposite here - I have taken a little walk with Otis and he invited the Chaplain of 134th N.Y. to come up and make a prayer - So the detachments were drawn up at 5 P.M. and we had a brief Religious Service -

This must be a healthy locality. My first visit to the State of Alabama. Our mails will be irregular. I expect a letter from you & from father too & of course from William to each of whom & yourself much love, in which Otis joins me - Yours affectionately Louisa M. Howard -

10/11/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-116

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps
Bridgeport, Alabama

[This is the original.]

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps
Bridgeport, Alabama
Oct. 11th, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived at this place at 2 o'clock this morning having started from Nashville at ten a.m. of Friday. The bridges burned by the Rebel Raiders were all rebuilt so as to allow of our passage that day and before dark we had got beyond the break - but the grades on the Nashville and Chatanooga R.R. are abrupt and as we had a heavy train we progressed slowly and finally got stuck on a heavy up-grade between Wartrace and Tullahoma. After several hours delay we were boosted on by another engine and stopped for breakfast at Déchert. The Conductor was hungry as well as the rest and so as accommodatingly as carelessly waited till a Breakfast was cooked at a forlorn shanty of a house. At Cowan, 4 miles below, we learned by telegraph that the Rebels had been there in the night and done damage to the R.R. in the tunnel near that place. Perhaps the conductor was more willing to delay owing to this report, owing to a similar report received the evening before we had brought troops of the 12th Corps from Wartrace to reinforce the R.R. guards etc. General Butterfield (Hooker's chief of staff) was on a train just in rear.

After a decent Breakfast at 50 cts (which seemed reasonable in comparison with other meals for which I had paid \$.75 and with the exorbitancy in Nashville) we went on to Cowan. Found that the guards (not from the 11th or 12th Corps) had run away and the Rebels had thrown rocks, stones, dirt and timber down through two apertures or shafts (as I think they are called) running from above perpendicularly down into the Tunnel and through which the stones, etc. were taken up in the construction of the Tunnel.

This Tunnel was 2 ½ miles from Cowan and when they took an Engine and platform car and went forward into the Tunnel to clear it out I got on board the Engine and so went along. I cannot describe minutely, here, the Tunnel and all I did and saw. It was 3000 ft long and wrought through solid limestone. The light reflected from the ground or rocks and travelling so far through the darkness became precisely of the same quality and appearance as moonlight. The sound from the Engine - pieces of rock etc. falling upon the Car, was almost deafening.

I was surprized to find at the other end of the Tunnel a train of cars with a thousand men from 11th Corps and with them two of our staff. Capt. Stinson was greatly astonished, when, after clambering over the length of the train along the tops of the cars I found him on the one next to the rear and seized him by the hand as he stood in the darkness on a platform car. That was after the train had moved up into the Tunnel in an attempt to get through when we supposed we had got the way clear. These troops had come up to meet the Rebels but they (the Rebels) had escaped before they arrived. It was several hours before we got off from Cowan to which place we returned after the way was cleared, Capt. S. accompanying me.

We got very hungry and paid a woman 50 cts apiece for a cup of very cloudy Tea and two slices of hard bread - alias "hard tack" - "pilot bread" - "soldiers hard crackers" etc. The scenery was wild and rugged - some of it pleasing - after passing through the Tunnel & after we began to descend this side of the mountains. It was similar to that which we saw in crossing the Aleghanies on the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. We were only about 20 miles from Stevenson when at the Tunnel. Stevenson is the great Depot for Rosecrans Army. The junction of the Nashville & Chatanooga & Memphis & Charleston R.R. - and Gen. Hooker's Hdqrs.

It was dark before we got there and 9 or 10 o'clock before we got a train "made up" to come down to Bridgeport - as now it is a kind of branch R.R. The main business terminating, of course, at the grand depot for the Army - and Stevenson is chosen in preference to Bridgeport (altho' the latter is somewhat nearer Chatanooga) because from Stevenson there is a better road across the mountains to

Chatanooga. I found it very cold in the cars and of course I was a little hungry - though I did not mind that - but it was very vexatious to be from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m in going only 10 miles. The train got stuck on the road & leaving the rearmost half in which I happened to be - came through - returning for us afterwards.

Otis had a light burning in his tent & hearing me come up called for me saying "come in Charlie". I found he had a fire place & a good fire & so I was glad enough to come in. Gave him his letter from Lizzie - talked a long time till I got thoroughly warm then came into my own tent where I now am. Found my bed all made - my fur robe not at all inappropriate and even my double white blanket not altogether useless, but I assure you I slept soundly from the time I was warmly ensconced until day-light. Capt. Stinson came about 6 a.m. having remained behind with the troops. Otis seemed very cheerful but has a bad cold as also has pretty much every one here. Mine is about well. The scenery here is fine - much of it approaching to the truly picturesque - and as we look from the fortified summit, where Hd. qrs. are located, forth upon the deep flowing Tennessee showing itself at intervals among the forests and hills, with the imposing back-ground of a mountain-range occasionally broken but mended by one still higher beyond and forming around us at a distance of from 2 to 3 miles an immense amphitheatre - such a view awakens in some of us emotions of the Grand - and some of the more excitable (like your humble servant e.g.) may perhaps have been heard to exclaim in an enthusiastic undertone - "Grand".

Today is warm so that I am inclined to disrobe myself of the third woolen shirt which I have worn of late as my coat is not very thick and it became necessary for comfort to preserve all the caloric I could.

It is now near sun-set. We occupy a Rebel fort. Have the Tennessee river between us and the enemy. In fact only a few Rebel Scouts show themselves and that usually upon some distant ridge or mountain. There is quite an extensive island in the river opposite here. Since I began this I have taken a little walk with Otis and he invited the chaplain of 134th N.Y. to come up and make a prayer. So the detachments were drawn up at 5 P.M. and we had a brief religious service.

This must be a healthy locality - my first visit to the State of Alabama. Our mails will be irregular - I expect a letter from you & from father too & of course from Dellie to each of whom & yourself much love, in which Otis joins me.

Your affectionate Son,
C.H. Howard

1.

Headquarters 11th Corps
Bridgeport, Alabama
Oct 11th, 1863

My dear Mother,

Arrived at this place at 2 o'clock
this morning. Leaving started
from Nashville at ten a.m. of
Friday - The bridges burned
by the Rebel Raiders were all
rebuilt so as to allow of our
passage that day and before
dark we had got beyond
the break -- but the grades
on the Nashville and
Chattanooga R. R. are abrupt
and as we had a heavy
train we progressed slowly
and finally got stuck on

Washington 11th Corps
Bridgeport, Delaware
Oct 11th, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived at this place at 10 o'clock
this morning being started
from Washburn at ten o'clock
Friday - the bridge burned
up all the old bridges were all
burnt so as to allow of our
passage that day and before
dark we had got beyond
the bridge - - but the grades
on the Washburn and
Chattanooga R.R. are straight
and so we had a long
train we progressed slowly
and finally got across in

a heavy up-grade between
Wartrace and Tullahoma.
after several hours delay
we were boosted on by
another engine and stopped
for breakfast at Decatur.
The conductor was hungry
as well as the rest and so
as accomodatingly as carelessly
waited till a Breakfast was
cooked at a forlorn shanty
of a house - at Cowan, 4
miles below, we learned
by telegraph that the Rebels
had been there in the night
and done damage to the
R. R. in the Tunnel near
that place - Perhaps the

a heavy up-grade between
 Worcester and Tullahoma.
 After several hours delay
 we were started on my
 motor engine and stopped
 for breakfast at Bristol.
 The conductor was bringing
 as well as the rest and so
 we accompanied by a car
 waited till a breakfast was
 served at a table about
 7 a hour - at 10 a.m.
 miles from, we however
 by telegraph that the train
 had been there in the night
 and that damage to the
 R.R. in the tunnel was
 that place - perhaps the

Conductor was more willing to delay owing to this report. Owing to a similar report received the evening before we had brought troops of the 12th Corps from Wartrace to reinforce the R. R. guards etc. General Butterfield (Hosker's chief of staff) was on a train just in rear.

After a decent Breakfast at 50 cts (which seemed reasonable in comparison with other meals for which I had paid \$.75 and with the exorbitancy in Nashville we went on to Carman - Found that the guards (not from the 11th or 12th corps) had run away

3.
Conductor was unwilling
to delay coming to this report
concerning a similar report
received the evening before
we had brought troops of the
1st Corps from Western to
reinforce the R. R. guards etc.
General Butterfield (Commander
chief of staff) was on a train
just in time.
After a short breakfast at
10 o'clock (which seemed reasonable
in comparison with other meals)
for which I had paid \$1.75 and
with the excitement in Washington
we went on to Carson - thinking
that the guards (not from the
1st or 14th Corps) had been coming

and the Rebels had thrown rocks, stones, dirt and timber down through two apertures or shafts (as I think they are called) running from above perpendicularly down into the Tunnel and through which the stones etc. were taken up in the construction of the Tunnel. This Tunnel was $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from Cowan and when they took one engine and platform car and went forward into the Tunnel to clear it out I got on board the engine and so went along - I cannot describe minutely, here, the Tunnel

and the little lot of stone
 stones, dirt and timber
 through two openings or
 shafts (as I think they are called)
 running from above ground
 nearly down into the tunnel
 and through which the stones
 were taken up in the construction
 of the tunnel. This tunnel
 was $0\frac{1}{2}$ miles from canon
 and when they took the
 engine and platform car and
 went forward into the tunnel
 to clear it out I got on
 behind the engine and as
 went along - I examined closely
 minutely, the tunnel

and all I did and saw - It
 was 3000 ft long and wrought
 through solid limestone -
 The light reflected from the
 ground on rocks and
 travelling so far through
 the darkness became
 precisely of the same quality
 and appearance as moonlight.
 The sound from the engine
 and pieces of rock etc. falling
 upon the car, were almost
 deafening. I was surprised
 to find at the other end
 of the Tunnel a train of
 cars with a thousand
 men from 11th corps and
 with them two glaze stuff.

and all I did and saw - It
was 3000 ft long and
through solid limestone -
the light reflected from the
ground on rocks and
travelling so far through
the darkness
principally of the same quality
and appearance as moonlight.
The sound from the engine
and pieces of rock etc. falling
upon the bar, were almost
deafening. I was surprised
to find at the other end
of the tunnel a train of
cars with a thousand
men from the camp and
with them two fine staff.

(?)

Capt. Struven was greatly astonished, when, after clambering over the length of the train along the tops of the cars I found him on the one next to the rear and seized him by the hand as he stood in the darkness on a platform car. That was after the train had moved up into the Tunnel in an attempt to get through where we supposed we had got the way clear. These troops had come up to meet the Rebels, but they (the Rebels) had escaped before they arrived - It was several hours before we got off from

(?)

Capt. Brown was greatly
 interested, and, after observing
 over the height of the house
 along the top of the house
 I found him on the one end
 of the house and stayed him
 up the bank as he stood in
 the darkness on a platform
 car. That was after the train
 had moved up into the
 tunnel in an attempt to get
 through under our suspension
 and had got the very close.
 These troops had come up to
 meet the Rebels but the
 (the Rebels) the troops before
 they arrived - It was found
 there before we got off from

from Cowan to which place
we returned after the way
was cleared; Capt S.
accompanying me.

We got very hungry and paid
a woman 50 cts apiece for a
cup of very cloudy Tea and
two slices of hard bread -
alias "hard tails" - "pilot bread" -
"soldiers hard crackers" etc.

The scenery was wild and
rugged - some of it pleasing -
after passing through the
Tunnel & after we began
to descend this side of the
mountains - It was similar
to that which we saw in
crossing the alghanes an

from Canon to which place
we returned after the way
was cleared, left a
companying me.
We got very hungry and had
a dinner so the officer in a
cup of very strong tea and
two slices of hard bread -
other "hard work" - "faint heart"
"cultural hard workers" etc.
The company was with and
happy - some of it pleasing -
after passing through the
tunnel & after we began
to descend the side of the
mountains - it was similar
to that which we saw in
crossing the mountains

the Baltimore and Ohio R. R. -
 We were only about 20 miles
 from Stevenson when at the
 Tunnel. Stevenson is the
 great Depot for Rosecrans army -
 The junction of the Nashville &
 Chattanooga & Memphis & Charleston
 R. R. - and Gen. Hooker's Hdqrs.
 It was dark before we got
 there and got 10 o'clock before
 we got a train "made up" to
 come down to Bridgeport as
 now it is a kind of branch
 R. R. The main business
 terminating, of course, at
 the grand depot for the army -
 and Stevenson is chosen in
 preference to Bridgeport altho'

the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. -
 we were only about 20 miles
 from the main trunk of the
 system. The main trunk
 goes right for the main trunk
 the junction of the main trunk
 at the junction of the main trunk
 R.R. - but the main trunk
 it was back before we got
 there and for 10 or 15 miles
 we got a "wreck" up to
 come down to the point of
 view it is a kind of branch
 R.R. the main trunk
 terminating, of course, at
 the point right for the main
 and the main trunk is shown in
 preference to the point of view.

the latter is somewhat nearer
 Chatanooga because from Stevenson
 there is a better road across
 the mountains to Chattanooga -
 I found it very cold in the
 cars and of course I was a
 little hungry - though I did
 not mind that - but it was
 very vexatious to be from
 10 p.m. till 2 a.m. in going only
 10 miles - The train got stuck
 on the road & leaving the
 rear most half in which I
 happened to be - come through -
 returning for us afterwards.
 Otis had a light burning in
 his tent & hearing me come
 up called for me saying

the latter is somewhat more
oblong. There is a better road across
the mountains to Chetumal.
I found it very bad in the
one of several I was a
little better - though I did
not mind that. But it was
very objectionable to the four
of us. till 2.00. In going only
10 miles - the train got stuck
on the road & leaving the
passenger half in water. I
happened to be - over through
returning for us after
this but a light breeze in
the tent & lining me down
up cells for us sleeping

"Come in Charlie" - I found he had a fine place & a good fire & so I was glad enough to come in - Gave him his letter from Lizzie - Talked a long time till I got thoroughly warm then came into my own tent where I now am - Found my bed all made - my fur robe not at all inappropriate and even my double white blanket not altogether useless - but I assure you I slept soundly from the time I was warmly escorted until day light - Capt Struisson came about 6 a. m. having remained behind with the troops. Otis seemed

"Come in Charlie" - I found he
had a fine glass & a good fire
so I went back enough to
have in - have him
better from things - talked a
long time till I got through
knowing them some into my
own tent - where I was on -
found my bed all made -
my fire hole out at all
in appropriate and even my
double white blanket out
at night - but I was
you I slept soundly from
the time I was moving
reached until day light -
Capt. Brown came about
6 a.m. having remained behind
with the troops the evening

very cheerful but has a bad cold
as also has pretty much
every one here. Mine is
about well. The scenery here
is fine - much of it approaching
to the truly picturesque - and
as we look from the fortified
summit where Hdqrs. are
located forth upon the deep
flowing Tennessee showing
itself at intervals among the
forests and hills, with the
imposing background of a
mountain - range occasionally
broken but mended by one
still higher beyond and
forming around us at a
distance of from 2 to 3 miles
an immense amphitheatre -
such a view makes in some

very elastic but has a lot of
as also the pretty much
every one here. There is
about well. The economy the
a fine - much of it appearing
to the truly picturesque - one
as we look from the fort
confronts with the eyes are
located just upon the top
forming themselves obtaining
itself at intervals among the
forests and hills, with the
imposing background of a
mountain - range occasionally
broken but covered by the
still higher layers and
forming around us as a
background of green & blue
an immense landscape -
and a very much in view

of us emotions of the Grant - and some of the more excitable (like your humble servant e.g.) may perhaps have been heard to exclaim in an enthusiastic undertone - 'Grant'.

Today is warm so that I am inclined to disrobe myself of the third woollen shirt which I have worn of late as my coat is not very thick and it became necessary for comfort to preserve all the calories I could.

It is now near sunset. We occupy a Rebel fort - Have the Tennessee river between us and the enemy - In fact only a few Rebel Scouts show themselves and that usually upon some distant ridge or

in connection of the West - and
 some of the more important (like
 your Chamber argument & of course)
 perhaps have been tried to
 establish in an authoritative
 manner - 'Brent'

Today is warm so that I
 am inclined to discuss myself
 of the third number about which
 I have more of late as my
 coat is not very thick and
 it seems necessary for comfort
 to procure all the balance I
 could.

It is now over sunset. We
 occupy a Rebel fort - have the
 Tennessee river between us
 and the enemy - so far only
 a few Rebel shots have been
 seen and that is all.

or mountain - There is quite an
 extensive island in the river
 opposite here - Since I began
 this I have taken a little walk
 with Otis and he invited the
 chaplain of 134th N. S. to come
 up and make a prayer - So
 the detachment was drawn up
 at 5 p. m. and we had a brief
 religious service - This must
 be a healthy locality - my first
 visit to the State of Alabama -
 Our mails will be irregular -
 I expect a letter from you & from
 father too & of course from Nellie
 to such of whom & yourself
 much love, in which Otis
 joins me - your affectionate son
 C. H. Howard

or mountain - there is quite an
 extensive island in the river
 opposite here - since I began
 this I have taken a little walk
 with this out to mount the
 elevation of 1345 ft. to come
 up and make a gorge - the
 the detachment was drawn up
 at 2 p.m. and we had a brief
 religious service - this was
 the first - very first
 visit to the state of Alabama -
 our minds will be irregular -
 I expect a letter from you to form
 father to & of course from this
 to each of them & yourself
 would have, in which this
 joins me - your affectionate son
 C. W. Brown

10/11/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-116c

Headquarters 11th
Corps
Bridgeport, Alabama

[This is a copy of a letter written in a different hand than CH Howard. Where there is a difference with the original, the original word is enclosed in {}]

Headquarters {Hd. Qrs.} 11th Corps
Bridgeport, Alabama
Oct 11th, 1863

My dear Mother,

I arrived at this place at 2 o'clock this morning having started from Nashville at ten a.m. of Friday. The bridges burned by the Rebel Raiders were all rebuilt so as to allow of our passage that day and before dark we had got beyond the break - but the grades on the Nashville and Chattanooga R.R. are abrupt and as we had a heavy train we progressed slowly and finally got stuck on a heavy up-grade between Wartrace and Tullahoma. After several hours delay we were boosted on by another engine and stopped for breakfast at Déchert. The conductor was hungry as well as the rest and so as accommodately as carelessly waited till a Breakfast was cooked at a forlorn shanty of a house. At Cowan, 4 miles below, we learned by telegraph that the Rebels had been there in the night and done damage to the R.R. in the tunnel near that place. Perhaps the conductor was more willing to delay owing to this report, owing to a similar report received the evening before we had brought troops of the 12th Corps from Wartrace to reinforce the R.R. guards etc. General {Gen'l} Butterfield (Hooker's chief of staff) was on a train just in rear.

After a decent Breakfast at 50 cts (which seemed reasonable in comparison with other meals for which I had paid \$.75 and with the exorbitancy in Nashville{}) we went on to Cowan. Found that the guards (not from the 11th or 12th Corps) had run away and the Rebels had thrown rocks, stones, dirt and timber down through two apertures or shafts (as I think they are called) running from above perpendicularly down into the Tunnel and through which the stones, etc. were taken up in the construction of the Tunnel. This Tunnel was 2 ½ miles from Cowan and when they took one engine and platform car and went forward into the Tunnel to clear it out I got on board the engine and so went along. I cannot describe minutely, here, the Tunnel and all I did and saw. It was 3000 ft long and wrought through solid limestone. The light reflected from the ground or rocks and travelling so far through the darkness became precisely of the same quality and appearance as moonlight. The sound from the engines and pieces of rock etc. falling upon the Car, were almost deafening. I was surprised {surprized} to find at the other end of the Tunnel a train of cars with a thousand men from the 11th Corps and with them two of our staff. Capt. Stinson was greatly astonished, when, after clambering over the length of the train along the tops of the cars I found him on the one next to the rear and seized him by the hand as he stood in the darkness on a platform car. That was after the train had moved up into the Tunnel in an attempt to get through when we supposed we had got the way clear. These troops had come up to meet the Rebels but they (the Rebels) had escaped before they arrived. It was several hours before we got off from Cowan to which place we returned after the way was cleared; Capt. S. accompanying me.

We got very hungry and paid a woman 50 cts apiece for a cup of very cloudy Tea and two slices of hard bread - alias "hard tack" - "pilot bread" - "soldiers hard crackers" etc. The scenery was wild and rugged - some of it pleasing. After passing through the Tunnel & after we began to descend this side of the mountains - it was similar to that which we saw in crossing the Alleghenies on the Baltimore and Ohio R.R. - we were only about 20 miles from Stevenson when at the Tunnel. Stevenson is the great Depot for Rosecrans Army. The junction of the Nashville & Chattanooga & Memphis & Charleston R.R. - and Gen. Hooker's Hdqrs.

It was dark before we got there and 9 or 10 o'clock before we got a train "made up" to come down to Bridgeport as now it is a kind of branch R.R. The main business terminating, of course, at the grand depot for the Army and Stevenson is chosen in preference to Bridgeport altho' the latter is somewhat nearer Chattanooga because from Stevenson there is a better road across the mountains to Chattanooga. I found it very cold in the cars and of course I was a little hungry - though I did not mind

that ,but it was very vexatious to be from 10 p.m. till 2 a.m in going only 10 miles. The train got stuck on the road & leaning the rearmost half in which I happened to be - come through - returning for us afterwards.

Otis had a light burning in his tent & hearing me come uip called for me saying "come in Charlie". I found he had a fire place & a good fire & so I was glad enough to come in. Gave him his letter from Lizzie - talked a long time till I got thoroughly warm then came into my own tent where I now am. Found my bed all made - my fur robe not at all inappropriate and even my double white blanket not altogether useless, but I assure you I slept soundly from the time I was warmly ensconced until day light. Capt. Stinson came about 6 a.m. having remained behind with the troops. Otis seemed very cheerful but has a bad cold as also has pretty much every one here. Mine is about well. The scenery here is fine - much of it approaching to the truly picturesque - and as we look from the fortified summit where Hdqrs. are located forth upon the deep flowing Tennessee showing itself at intervals among the forests and hills, with the imposing background of a mountain-range occassionally broken but mended by one still higher beyond and forming around us at a distance of from 2 to 3 miles an immense amphitheatre - such a view makes in some of us emotions of the Grand - and some of the more excitable (like your humble servant e.g.) may perhaps have been heard to exclaim in an enthusiastic undertone - "Grand".

Today is warm so that I am inclined to disrobe myself of the third woolen shirt which I have worn of late as my coat is not very thick and it became necessary for comfort to preserve all the caloric I could.

It is now near sunset. We occupy a Rebel fort. Have the Tennessee river between us and the enemy. In fact only a few Rebel Scouts show themselves and that usually upon some distant ridge or mountain. There is quite an extensive island in the river opposite here. Since I began this I have taken a little walk with Otis and he invited the chaplain of 134th N.J. to come up and make a prayer. So the detachments were drawn up at 5 p.m. and we had a brief religious service.

This must be a healthy locality - my first visit to the State of Alabama. Our mails will be irregular - I expect a letter from you & from father too & of course from Dellie to such {each} of whom & yourself much love, in which Otis joins me.

Your affectionate Son,
C.H. Howard

It is said there is a table - and some six miles broad up
then - I intend to take some Cavalry and go up some day.
It is too far for ordinary Cannon to be very effective
so we do not apprehend an attack from that direction
much. There are no dwelling houses here - only a
few eating shanties - and for a while before I came and
while our Mess-chest was behind our officers were con-
victed to get their meals at one of these. Our diet con-
sists daily of the same - it is good enough but in the
course of time I suppose we shall grow a little tired
of Beef, bread & Coffee three times a day. We usually
have new-layers - and Major Keers U.S.A. who spent night
before last with us, has promised to send the General some
Butter from Stevenson if he can - Maj. K. is an Arkan's Staff and
purchased my Bay Brose yesterday - So I will own but one
horse and that is pronounced by Gen. Gehrig yesterday
the best at the Corps Head Quarters. I sold my horse for \$150 -
being \$20 more than I paid for her last winter - Still it rains -
has been one of the building, corduroy roads toward Littleton and
have let the post-boys take the route that is not expected until the
We hardly comprehend why Heaven with a very heavy rain
[See page 3]

Head Quarters. 11th Corps
Bridgeport Ala.
Oct. 14 1863

My dear Brother

I believe I have not
answered directly your letter to
me written Sept. 30 and received
at Nashville just before I came
down here - It is raining this
morning and has been pretty heav-
ily since yesterday morning - I am
now waiting for Breakfast - We
have one of the Soldier's California
Fire-places and my Colonel knew
"Wash" came in and kindled a
fire before I got up. So you see
I am living quite luxuriously - The
fire-place is constructed by sinking
a trench about a foot ^{wide &} deep and ex-
tending outside the tent - This is
walled up with flat stones and is very
is covered ^{inside the tent} with a flat piece of cast-
iron which our "Pioneers" had found
somewhere and appropriated - Outside,
and usually the whole length of it is covered

was sent out here - It must
be that some addition will be
made to his Command, I think,
for it is to be expected that Gen.
Glacum & Howard are each
competent to take care of
their own Corps - receiving or-
ders direct from Rosecrans.
Perhaps Hooker is to operate
apart by himself as soon as the
reinforcements arrive from Grant.
None have yet come. Burnside
remains, it is believed in statu quo.

Your letter was all very in-
teresting to me - Do you think your
visit to Mass. was a profitable one?
Yesterday the vote was taken in our
Ohio Regts. One of them 56th Ohio -
296 voters - was unanimous for
Brough - The 43^d was not so unanimous.
Others I have not heard from.

I was very glad to hear that
Hattie Patten is improving in health. Did
you visit Farmington & see Perry? Will
he go West to visit Uncle Henry?

How is the Corn Crop? This country - in
fact ^{also} all of Kentucky & Tennessee seemed to
me to be under a poor state of cultivation. I
saw my first cotton field at Bristol, near
Bowling Green, Ky. - I saw others and the negroes
gleaning the cotton near Memphis Tenn.

It is busy talking with some officers

in his tent next to which comes
mine which I share with Capt. thin-
son. The latter is studying French -
His' warm love to you
and all at home but I will
not disturb him. I wrote to
Rowland yesterday & to mother day
before. Letters will come so ir-
regularly and be so long on the way
I hope you will compensate by writing
more frequently. Otis is getting better
of his cold - I am almost well
of mine - Our kind Heavenly Blessings
abounds as beautifully in mercies
& blessings as ever and I pray
you & all at home may share
an equal circumstance. With great
love to Father & Mother & kind regards
to the neighbors not forgetting Oscar
and his esteemed wife -

Yours affectionate Brother
C. H. Howard

10/14/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-117

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps
Bridgeport Ala

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps
Bridgeport Ala.
Oct. 14, 1863

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I believe I have not answered directly your letter to me written Sept. 20 and received at Nashville just before I came down here. It is raining this morning and has been pretty nearly since yesterday morning. I am now waiting for Breakfast.

We have one of the Soldier's California Fire-places and my colored man "Nash" came in and kindled a fire before I got up. So you see I am living quite luxuriously. The fire-place is Constructed by sinking a trench about a foot wide & deep and extending outside the tent. This is walled up with flat stones and in ours is covered inside the tent with a flat piece of cast-iron which our "Pioneers" had found somewhere and appropriated. Outside, and usually the whole length it is covered with flat stones - and at a distance of two or three feet from the tent a chimney of flat stones and mud rises to a height about equal to the top of the tent. In the scarcity of stones the chimney is heightened by the use of boards. The inner end of the Trench is left uncovered for a foot or little more and here is where the fire is kindled. Of course two of us have little room to spare in one of these "7 by 9" tents, so our table with writing desk is set over the fireplace and as I sit and write it is very convenient to warm my feet. In fact I am compelled to warm them whether they are cold or not. For our table we have four stakes driven firmly into the ground and the table made of two boards fastened together is laid upon the tops of these. Our little Pine desk which is loaded down like all desks serves to keep the table in place. Since I arrived we have had a floor made to our tent. It was well that it was completed before the rain - the fireplace ditto.

We are located upon a hill and in the enclosure of a Rebel Fort.

We have reason to be thankful that the Enemy did so much digging for our profit - yet we would have been better pleased had they not so unwisely left their rear entirely unprotected. For since it now becomes our front we must needs go to work fortifying. By getting outside of this Earth-work, however, as we could easily do and the same of our troops - we would be partly well sheltered from any shelling they could bring to bear. We are at work fortifying to cover our Pontoon-bridge, which is across the Tennessee at this place. There are two of them since we cross upon an island. This is a place somewhat similar to Harper's Ferry for natural scenery and in this respect a source of pleasure. Yesterday I was down below where the River unites after passing the island. It is a grand old river. The water has a peculiar green color. There is a gun boat building down here to run to Chatanooga. Yesterday we got a dispatch from Gen. Rosecrans directing us to afford every facility for hastening its completion. The highest range of mountains which over looks us here is only 2 or 3 miles off and the rebels come from beyond and look down upon us from the summit.

It is said there is a table-land some six miles broad up there. I intend to take some Cavalry and go up some day. It is too far for ordinary Cannon to be very effective, so we do not apprehend an attack from that direction much. There are no dwelling houses here - only a few eating shanties - and for a while before I came and while our mess-chest was behind our officers were compelled to get their meals at one of these.

Our diet continues daily the same - it is good enough but in the course of time I suppose we shall grow a little tired of Beef, bread & Coffee three times a day. We usually have molasses - and Major Reeves U.S.A. who spent night before last with us, has promised to send the General some Butter from Stevenson if he can. Maj. R. is on Hooker's staff and purchased my Bay Mare yesterday. So I will own but one horse and that was pronounced by Gen. Schurz yesterday the best at the Corps Head qrs. I sold my mare for \$150, being \$20 more than I paid for her last Winter.

Still it rains. Our men are at work building Corduroy roads towards Chatanooga and I <work> <at> the

fortifications. We somewhat expect an attack upon Rosecrans. We hardly comprehend why Hooker with a Maj. Gen. for Chief of Staff was sent out here. It must be that some addition will be made to his Command, I think, for it is to be expected the Gens. Slocum & Howard are each competent to take care of their own Corps - receiving orders direct from Rosecrans. Perhaps Hooker is to operate apart by himself as soon as the reinforcements arrive from Grant. None have yet come. Burnside remains, it is believed in status quo.

Your letter was all very interesting to me. Do you think your visit to Mass. Was a profitable one? Yesterday the vote was taken in our Ohio Regts. One of them 55th Ohio - 296 voters - was unanimous for Brough. The 73d was not so unanimous. Others I have not heard from.

I was very glad to hear that Hattie Patten is improving in health. Did you visit Farmington & see Perry? Will he go West to visit Uncle Henry [Strickland]?

How is the Corn Crop? This country - in fact also all of Kentucky & Tennessee - seemed to me to be under a poor state of Cultivation. I saw my first cotton field at Bristow near Bowling Green, Ky. I saw others and the negroes gathering the Cotton near Murfreesboro Tenn.

Otis is busy talking with some officers in his tent next to which comes mine which I share with Capt. Stinson. The latter is studying French. Otis would send love to you and all at home but will not disturb him. I wrote to Rowland yesterday & to mother day before. Letters will come so irregularly and be so long on the way I hope you will compensate by writing more frequently. Otis is getting better of his cold - I am almost well of mine. Our kind Heavenly Parent deals as beautifully in mercies & blessings as ever and I pray you & all at home may share an equal amount. With great love to Father & Mother & kind regards to the neighbors not forgetting Oscar and his esteemed wife.

Your Affectionate brother
C. H. Howard

8) I thought it remarkable on sitting up to one of the
big hut - as mineola a house as any glad seen -
"by 9" - big voices - day - light seen from the other side
entirely through - pretty as seen - children as suggested -
but the evening with the moon I found he could see
hundred acres of land, good soil and other same
great crops of corn - 50 bushels to the acre - also
sweet potatoes in abundance. He had a negro, and
besides, rented a farm above his on the island -
which he belonged to the "Poor white tract" as it is called -
that mineola class of society counsel by the institution
of slavery and therefore not known in the North.
(They on ignorant segregated and must remain so and likewise
their children unless slavery is wiped out by this war and
then they can begin to build up their heads with all the best
in equal footing. Slavery will become non-existent and they
can afford to have schools - No monopolies of the land
that I will see - no letters will take - that often of the Methodist for the

for her childhood. The Dr. 4
I sat and talked with them
quite a long time - The old woman
bought some Chestnuts which she
had gathered and so offered us
a treat - I thought perhaps those
very Chestnuts might be called
into requisition before Spring to
keep the children from starving.

Yesterday we met here at 10.45 a.m.
a gentleman of a very different
class from those I have been speak-
ing of. He came down from the
top of the mountain on the other
side of the river avowedly to in-
form us that the Rebel Cavalry
which are about to visit his home,
say that a portion of their army
is going to attack us here - that
they intend to plant artillery on
the crest of the mountain (and
he pointed out the exact place)
and shell us out of our position
here if possible - This gentleman
was originally from Vermont. He
was Professor of Languages in a
Dartmouth College (at Winchester) - His
name is Guilford - One of his

1) We have had a fairing rain - storm - some thunder with it and considerable wind last night - sometimes I found our tent would go down - tho' my fears did not prevent me from sleeping unconcernedly except. ^{until one of the boys} Thoman was out in the wind & rain & darkness getting off some Porters, sent by the River up to Schwartz River to bridge that - it has been so much as I need to be bridged where the boat from Stevenson to Chelananga crosses it. Yesterday I was riding on the island, viewing in myriads of water and Compassion the indigenous inhabitants and nothing with coming and interest the new kinds of trees and plants - what I had never before seen - The "Sweet Gum" is "Commersonia" and has a pretty leaf somewhat like a Maple - "Live Oak" is also pretty abundant and has a narrow, smooth & deep-green leaf. Some varieties of Locusts trees were beautiful - one the "Honey Locust" and when they told us the names of many of the new trees. The team-bush I think I have mentioned as one of the new ones.

Some, he laments was a secessionist -
 it - Went into the Rebel line
 and died - He is a white-
 haired old gentleman - seemed
 frank & ready to communicate all
 he knew - He has only been
 living when he now does, since
 the war - He says there is a
 broad plateau up there with
 fine farms - It is some 4 or 8 miles
 wide - He has from his place
 a fine view of all the surround-
 ing country - Hence the Rebels
 go there or near there to over-
 look us and communicate. They
 pretend to think that we have
 not so much of a force here
 as our tents indicate - that we
 put up empty tents for show.

He says this rain will probably prevent any immediate attack since it renders the river unfordable at any of the ordinary Fording places - We have Porters & carriers which we can easily procure.

Yesterday our Scouts took two Red
Cavalry prisoners - some four miles
along at the R.R. in the other
side of the river - toward Chetumal.

10/17/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-118

Bridgeport, Ala

[Written by someone else - From Bridgeford, Ala., Fall 1863, to his Mother. The town is probably Bridgeport, Ala.]

5) [This is page 5, the first 4 are missing.]

for her children. The Dr. & I sat and talked with them quite a long time. The old woman brought some Chestnuts which she had gathered and so offered us a treat. I thought perhaps those very Chestnuts might be called into requisition before Spring & keep the Children from starving.

Yesterday we met here at Hd. qrs. a gentleman of a very different class from those I have been speaking of. He came down from the top of the mountain on the other side of the river avowedly to inform us that the Rebel Cavalry which are wont to visit his house, say that portion of their Army is going to attack us here & that they intend to plant artillery in the crest of the mountain (and he pointed out the exact place) and shell us out of our position here if possible. This gentleman was originally from Vermont. Has been Professor of Languages in a Tennessee College (of Winchester). His name is Guilford. One of his Sons he laments was a Secessionist - went into the Rebel service and died. He is a white-haired old gentleman - seemed frank & ready to Communicate all he knew. He has only been living where he now does, since the war. He says there is a broad plateau up there with fine farms - & is some 7 or 8 miles wide. He has from his place a fine view of all the surrounding country. Hence the Rebels go there or near there to overlook us and cannonade. They pretend to think that we have not so much of a force here as our tents indicate. I bet we put up empty tents for show.

He says this rain will probably prevent any immediate attack since it renders the river unfordable at any of the ordinary Fording-places. We have pontoons across which we can easily remove.

Yesterday our Scouts took two Rebel Cavalry prisoners - some four miles along up the R.R. on the other side of the river - towards Chatanooga.

We have had a furious rain-storm. Some Thunder with it and considerable Wind last night. Sometimes I feared our tent would go down, tho' my fears did not prevent me from sleeping unconcernedly. Capt Stinson was out in the Wind & rain & darkness until one o'clock this morning getting off some Pontoons, sent by the River up to Sewatchie River to bridge that - it having risen so much as to need to be bridged where the road from Stevenson to Chatanooga crosses it. Yesterday I was riding on the island, viewing in mingled wonder and compassion the indigenous inhabitants and noticing with curiosity and interest the new kinds of trees and plants which I had never before seen. The "Sweet Gum" is common and has a pretty leaf somewhat like a Maple - "Live Oak" is also pretty abundant and has a narrow, smooth & deep-green leaf. Some varieties of Locust trees were beautiful - one the "Honey Locust". An orphan boy told us the names of many of the new trees. The <Cone-brake> I think I have mentioned as one of the mountains.

[page] 8) I thought it remarkable on riding up to one of the log huts - nearly as miserable a house as any I had seen - "7 by 9" - big crevices - day-light seen from the other side entirely through - filthy as ever - children as ragged & dirty - but in conversing with the man I found he owned two hundred acres of land & good soil and he often raised great crops of corn - 50 bushels to the acre - also sweet potatoes in abundance. He had a negro man and besides rented a farm above his on the island. Still he belonged to the "Poor white trash" as it is called - that miserable class of society caused by the institution of Slavery and therefore not known in the North. They are ignorant & degraded and must remain so and likewise their children unless Slavery is wiped out by this war and then they can begin to hold up their heads with all the rest on equal footing. Inhabitants will become more numerous and they can afford to have schools - no monopolizers of the land.

But I will close. No letters rec'd today. Write often to Your Affectionate Son.
C. H. Howard

Shells have struck within one
quarter of a mile this morning.

I suppose this would be quite
near enough for our peaceful
people at home - I might say it
is quite near enough for us
but still we are so accustomed
to the noise and so well aware
of our safety when they are that
distance from us that we have
no more feeling of fear than
father would have should he
hear the sound of turning out
a Cart load of stones - which
you know makes considerable noise.

Your letter mentioned the proposition
of Uncle Oakes Ames and you were
transverse it the same evening - I
should have said go by all means
even though you do not get a cent
of pay - You never will have so
inexpensive a way of visiting Washington

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

Lookout Valley - Nov. 15th 1863.

My dear brother

When I returned
from Bridgeport 2 days before yesterday
Capt. Stinson handed me a letter
from you - dated Oct. 28th - That
was the day we entered this Valley
and that night including the morn-
ing of the 29th till daylight we
were fighting Longstreet's Corps. By
the way the Chattanooga Rebel Station
at Atlanta Ga. makes the most
unconstitutional acknowledgment of
a defeat on that night - that I have

seen in a Rebel Newspaper. It says
it is indeed surprising how the Rebels
have got so complete possession of
Lookout Valley and the Tennessee
River almost before their generals
were aware of it. - I see that the
Tribune papers have it that we took
Lookout Mountain. If the editors
were here with me this moment to
hear the echo of that lost big
gun which sent a shell from
the famous Lookout Point
whizzing and tearing through the
air down this way they would
change the tone about the
possession of Lookout Mountain.

(31)
They fire every day more or
less. - Yesterday a shell burst
itself three feet in the ground
within a few yards of where
this & I were riding along. They
probably fired at a wagon-train
which was passing near us.
As soon as we get the roads all
conducted to Kelly's Ferry, the
wagons can go a route very
little exposed. Our head quarters
are rather long range for them
besides they are somewhat con-
cealed by trees and we have
no apprehensions that they will
march up from Lookout though

and sends such others would
certainly pay you if you should
do him any service - If he
will pay your expenses, and
while there you ought to go
by all means. Just think of
the opportunity to see Adams at
the National Capitol during
a session of Congress - If you
go I think it will be best
for you to keep as much in
the background as is con-
venient and be determined to
learn all you can - Study the
manners of the Representatives
of our nation. Observe their style

of thought and expression - But
I cannot begin to enumerate the
means of instruction which will
be thrown in your way - I hope
you will have the privilege of
going and will be of some good
service to your people.

I have written some letters to the
Boston Journal - one giving a free
- set. of the recent Sessions of our
Cops & the unjust imprisonment in
Lockport Valley - Do not mention
this letter as I do not wish my
signature known. This last letter
of yours Oth's & I agree in pro-
mouning one of the best & cer-
tainly most interesting you have
sent us - We hope so much to hear
about the every day life like the
sheeping of the Wood-lane - the
little home-party, like when Florence
was there etc. I should think if
you are going with Uncle Oth, you
better not go down to Auburn at
all - but be getting ready for your
Winter's Obsequies - Mrs. Chase's
will certainly be a pleasant boarding-place,

11/15/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-119

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps
Lookout Valley

[In this letter, Charles has written on the pages first in a horizontal direction and then in a vertical direction.]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]
Lookout Valley Nov. 15th, 1863.

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

When I returned from Bridgeport day before yesterday Capt. Stinson handed me a letter from you "dated Oct 28th". That was the day we entered this Valley and that night including the morning of the 29th till Day light we were fighting Longstreet's Corps. By the way the Chatanooga Rebel published at Atlanta Ga. Makes the most unconditional acknowledgment of a defeat on that night that I have ever seen in a Rebel Newspaper. It says it is indeed surprising how the Federal Army got so complete possession of Lookout Valley and the Tennessee River almost before their Generals were aware of it. I see that the Maine papers have it that we took Lookout Mountain. If the Editors were here with me this moment to hear the echoes of that last big gun which sent a shell from the famous Lookout Point whizzing and tearing through the air down this way they would change the tune about the possession of Lookout Mountain.

They fire every day more or less. Yesterday a Shell buried itself three feet in the ground within a dozen yards of where Otis & I were riding along. They possibly fired at a Wagon-train which was passing near us. As soon as we get the roads all corduroyed to Kelly's Ferry, the wagons can go a route very little exposed. Our Head quarters are rather long range for them besides they are somewhat concealed by trees and we have no apprehensions that they will trouble us from Lookout though shells have struck within one quarter of a mile this morning.

I suppose this would be quite near enough for our peaceful people at home. I might say it is quite near enough for us but still we are so accustomed to the noise and so well aware of our safety when they are that distance from us that we have no more feeling of fear than father would have should he hear the sound of turning out a cart load of stones - which you know makes considerable noise.

Your letter mentions the proposition of Uncle Oakes Ames [Note 1] and you were to answer it the same evening. I should have said go by all means even though you do not get a cent of pay. You never will have so inexpensive a way of visiting Washington and besides Uncle Oakes would certainly pay you if you should do him any service. If he will pay your expenses out & which then you ought to go by all means. Just think of the opportunity to see & learn at the National Capitol during a session of Congress. If you go I think it will be best for you to keep as much in the back-ground as is convenient and be determined to learn all you can. Study the manners of the Representative men of our nation. Observe their style of thought and expression. But I cannot begin to enumerate the means of instruction which will be known in your way. I hope you will have the privilege of going and will be of some good service to your Uncle.

I have written some letters to the Boston Journal, one giving a full acct of the recent operations of our Corps & the nights engagements in Lookout Valley - Do not mention this to others as I do not wish my signature known. This last letter of yours Otis & I agree in pronouncing one of the best & certainly most interesting you have sent us. We like so much to hear about the every day life like the shingling of the wood-house, the little home-[poring bee], when Florence was there etc. I should think if you are going with Uncle Oakes you better not go down to Auburn at all - but be getting ready for your Winter's Absence. Mr. Chase's will certainly be a pleasant boarding-place.

I am glad my Aeolean has at last got on its way to repairs. I am always pleased to think that I have that at home still considered as mine. It is one bit of tangible personal property so peculiarly personal and so

connected with dear memories that it seems like a kind of representative of me at the old homestead.

Speaking of "Dressing Apples" reminded me that I had a present of a bbl. of eating apples the other day at Bridgeport from my Classmate Douglass who is there in the Christian Commission. I slept one night in his tent. I wrote an acct. of my voyage down river in a log-canoe - thirty miles of paddling to Ella. The Steamboat had gone & I did not like to wait twenty-four hours for another especially as there were then some thoughts of an advance of <base> to Lookout Mountain. I of course did not want to be too long absent. I also got a bbl. of potatoes & one of soft-bread so you perceive we are living high. Only four (4) in our "mess" now. Had it divided into three equal parts. We talk again having a consolidation for Thanksgiving day when we will all do our best to celebrate the combined thanksgiving occasion of Pres. Lincoln & Gov. Coburn. Our Caterer has been wont to roam over the mountains West of us for food. I hope all (every goose, turkey & chicken) will not be gone by that time.

It is a pleasant warm day - though our nights are pretty cool as I found the other night when coming on the Steamboat. I had no blanket and sat upon the mail-bag. Started after dark - arrived about one A.M. but remained on board till near day-light.

I subscribed for the Weekly Cincinnati Gazette for you with instructions that if you had already subscribed they should send the copy I paid for to Rowland. I hope you have delayed sending for the paper till now. Weekly would be better than a daily since it contains all the correspondence and Dailies never get too old to have any particular telegraphic news before they could reach you. I have written once to the Gazette signing "Alraia" but I do not know that they published my letter.

I rec'd a letter from John Weir the same time with yours; also one from Gilbreth (Lieut) who has been home on Leave but was to start from Augusta last week (10th) so We expect he will bring messages &c. from Lizzie. Did father receive my draft on order for \$100 which I received for my horse & did he have any trouble in getting it cashed. I believe I wrote that I desired to have him purchase another 5-20 Bond with it. Otis was just in here and got an apple out of my bbl. We had some grapes for Dessert at dinner (just now) which were also a present - from my good friend Douglass.

This writing across reminds me of some of the old letters I have seen in Mother's old packages. They came from a great distance as this will and then they had to pay 25 cts. Postage. With me it is not the amount of postage but the scarcity of stationery here at our Hd. Qrs. which induces me to write crosswise with red ink.

I must not forget to tell you that Gen. Sherman has arrived at Stevenson (i.e. on the line of the Nashville R.R. and only about ten (10) miles beyond Bridgeport) with a portion of the Army of the Tennessee, Gen. Grant's old army. I suppose he is to come up on our right. Then Hooker will have the Center & Gen. Thomas the left and we will be strong enough to strike a blow if we wish.

This P.M. we are going to the Corps Hospital to attend Divine Service. The <53d> Mass Band will furnish the music & one of the Chaplains conduct the service. We are now pretty well fortified sufficient - probably to withstand any attack upon us - even without reinforcement which can be easily brought over from Chatanooga - less than four (4) miles via Brown's Ferry Pontoon bridge. In coming from Chatanooga here we cross the Pontoon in rear of the city, then take an almost straight road across a neck of land to the Brown's Ferry Pontoon. Chatanooga is three (3) miles from Lookout Point. Our lines in many places are written in miles. In going to Kelly's Ferry to which point the Steamboats come. From Brown's Ferry go up the Valley about a mile & then bear to the right round through a gap as [pass] Racoon Range and you reach the Tennessee again in about four (4) miles. I write a good deal that is very general but I see that the newspapers do not give a very correct review of these things and I suppose you wish to know them. The Lord blesses us with good health. I pray him to guide you in a right & profitable course & keep you from sin & I trust He will do so.

Your Affectionate brother
C H Howard

[Note 1: Oakes Ames was the husband of Eveline Gilmore, the sister of Dellie's father, John Gilmore. Ames was a U.S. Representative from Easton, Mass, between 1863 and 1873.]

[illegible]

with a ~~personal~~ complimentary
letter of prominent parties
engaged that I hope you will
have for its publication.
The characteristic order of
the ^{accompanying} ~~document~~ was received
with unusual
marks of gratification by the
officers & soldiers of his command.
Please insert in large type
conspicuous place ⁱⁿ your
paper that the Rebels still hold
Lookout Mountain. If some
of our correspondents who furnish
accounts of scenes and operations
there, though themselves never nearer
Bridgeport, (30 miles off), could
along this valley during any one
daylight hours and lose
one of these air rending, earth shot
balls come swooping down
the upper regions, ^{past} ~~over~~ his
head: he would appropriate Lookout and
the possession of it - and if the lesson

11/18/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Editor of the Portland
Press

CHH-120

Lookout Valley, Tenn

Lookout Valley, Tenn.
Nov. 18, 1863

To the Editor of the Portland Press:

I notice in the Eastern Newspapers a great deal of misconception relative to the operations of that part of the Army of the Cumberland (including the recent reenforcement from the Army of the Potomac), which undertook and accomplished the opening of the Tennessee River and thereby relieve the starving forces at Chatanooga.

The enclosed order from Gen. Thomas gives so clear a statement of the results combined with a complimentary mention of prominent parties engaged that I hope you will find space for its publication.

The accompanying characteristic order of Gen. Howard was received with unusual marks of gratification by the officers & soldiers of his Command.

Please insert in large type in some conspicuous place in your Paper that the Rebels still hold Lookout Mountain. If some of the Editors of Northern Newspapers or some Correspondents who furnish vivid accounts of scenes and operations here, though themselves never nearer than Bridgeport, (30 miles off), could pass along this Valley during any one of the Day-light hours and have one of these air rending, earth-shattering shells come swooping down from the Upper Regions, past his head - he would appreciate both what is meant by Lookout and the possession of it; and if the lesson is not too dearly learnt - he will be able to inform his readers that the River is in our possession all the way to Chatanooga with the exception of about a mile opposite Lookout Point commanded by the guns of the Enemy not yet dislodged from the Mountain. The Peninsula across from the Pontoon bridge at Brown's Ferry to that at Chatanooga is less than two (2) miles wide. Lookout Point is above three (3) miles from the city. So that there is an actual gain of distance in landing supplies at Brown's Ferry. But the "Suck" (or shallows) between Kelly's & Brown's doesn't permit <> easy passage of the boats and so by crossing another peninsula formed by the Tennessee wagons can reach Kelly's in a distance of five (5) miles from Brown's, the boats usually leave their cargoes at Kelly's. The Rebels did hold all of this portion of the Tennessee as also twenty miles more of it towards Bridgeport.

This was adroitly wrested from them by Gen. Hooker's Command cooperating with forces from Chatanooga. The Southern papers say it is incomprehensible how the Federals got so complete possession of Lookout Valley in so short a time and not less so that Bragg should have suffered them to do so.

[illegible][illegible]

The Rebels are marching from
the north towards the south.
The Rebels are marching from
the north towards the south.
The Rebels are marching from
the north towards the south.

have not seen the Editor and will send you while I am at home and present a statement of the interesting articles which I have written for the "Littell's Living Age" - I have been beginning my cold here at last but the weather is not so cold as it was.

12/4/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B.
Howard]

CHH-121

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps
Loudon Tenn

Farmington, Me.

Mailed at Crab Orchard Ky. Dec. 15, 1863

Headquarters Eleventh Corps, [Letterhead]
Loudon Tenn. Dec. 4 1863.

Dear Brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

We are waiting here for other columns to get in position and cross the Little Tennessee, when we will all move forward to the relief of Burnside and against Longstreet if we can find him. The latter has about 30,000 men & made an unsuccessful though but a partial attack on Burnside last Tuesday. We can get no news since. The garrison here escaped but we captured flour & meal enough to feed our command two or three days. This morning we put a Regt. across the river and they drove off the Cavalry videttes of the Enemy and just now I learn they have found four cannon abandoned by the Rebels. In our advance the 15th Corps comd'd by F. P. Blair has the right Wing. The 4th Granger, the center and the 11th, (ours) the left. Today we have been building our bridges across the Little Tenn.

Sometimes we fear Burnside will not hold out (as he has only 15,000 and is probably short of provisions). Then again sometimes we fear Longstreet will get off to Va. In the latter case we will congratulate ourselves on Burnside's relief and a campaign grandly successful and important in its results. But there still seems good reason to believe that Longstreet tarries. Not a quarter of an hour ago we learned that our cavalry Regt. left to guard the bridge at Charleston (the Hirvasee) had come away and that the Rebel Gen. Wheeler was approaching. It is a pity an Infantry Regt. had not been left there - still we chased a Rebel Infantry Regt from there. Wheeler will probably destroy the bridge and pick up some stragglers - possibly some wagons - but we are without trains and have none on the way to join us that we know of. So Wheeler will find the rear unusually dry.

It is a warm pleasant day but I have had a bad cold for some time. This will make it better. We are in an old hotel kept by a German who has been a Consul for the U.S. Govt. an old Whig. He has a fair library but mostly German & French books.

We have been compelled to take horses for our artillery and soldiers taking advantage of this have stolen a great many. The people are flocking in with all sorts of complaints and I am exceedingly sorry to find that many good Union people have suffered. Blair's Corps are regular robbers roaming all over the country. I fear the Lord will not bless us if this practice is not stopped. The Episcopal Clergyman here - an Englishman - came in this morning - a staid old fellow with not over much polish.

We took 75 Rebel wounded at Sunday's fight here. Expect Steamer up here to bring rations for Granger's Corps today. The Div'n. of Jeff C. Davis which has been in our column considerably will now be the Reserve for this Army.

Sherman is a hearty thorough-working commander. Will never be over-cautious - and believes that the whole country in Rebellion ought to be devastated.

Longstreet may escape into Va or into South through a portion of North Carolina and he may give us battle. We have enough to meet him even though Burnside should do nothing and of course he may easily cooperate.

The country we marched through in coming from Parker's Gap (7 miles East of Ringold [TN]) here is much more thrifty than any we have seen before in the South. The Villages are pleasant and what is most refreshing there are many Union people who receive us with open arms and give all the information they can.

mailed at
Crab Orchard, Ky.
Dec 15, 1863

Hqrs. 11th Corps
London Tenn. Dec 4, 1863

Dear Brother,

We are waiting here for other columns to get in position and cross the Little Tennessee when we will all move forward to the relief of Burnside and against Longstreet if we can find him. The latter has about 30,000 men and made an unsuccessful though but a partial attack on Burnside last Sunday. We can get no news since. The garrison here escaped but we captured flour & meal enough to feed our command two or three days. This morning we put a Regt. across the river and they drove off the Cavalry videtts of the Enemy and just now

Dec 18, 1863
Camp Orchard, Ky.
Major. W. C. Cope
Johnson Town, Dec 4, 1863

Dear Brother,
We are awaiting here for other
information to get in position and
cross the little Tennessee river
and will all move forward to
the relief of Knoxville and against
important if we can find them.
The latter has about 30,000 men
and made an unsuccessful
charge but a partial retreat
on November last Sunday.
We can get no more news.
The Garrison has accepted but
our capture from & over
enough to feed our command
two or three days. This morning
we put a light across the river
and they have off the bridge
white of the country and put on

2.

I learn they have found four
cannon abandoned by the Rebels.
In our advance the 15th Corps
commanded by F. P. Blair has the
right wing. The 4th Granger
the center and the 11th (ours)
the left. Today we have been
building our bridges across the
Little Tenn. Sometimes we
fear Burnside will not hold
out (as he has only 15,000 and
is probably short of provisions -
Then again sometimes we fear
Longstreet will get off to Va.
In the latter case we will
congratulate ourselves on Burn-
side's relief and a campaign
grandly successful and important

I have this time found four
common shorebirds by the lake
and one elsewhere the 10 of Cape
Cortez by S. P. River the 10
right wing. the 10 of
the center and the 10 of
the left. today we have been
building our bridge across the
little stream. sometimes we
find Periwinkle shells not half
out (or to be only 10,000 out
a probably sort of possession
then again sometimes we find
longer but will get off to us.
in the latter case we will
investigate ourselves as before
with relief and a surprise
possibly unexpected and important

in its results. But there still seems good reason to believe that Longstreet tarries. Not a quarter of an hour ago we learned that our Cavalry Regt. left to guard the bridge at Charleston (the Kiwassee) had come away and that the Rebel Gen. Wheeler was approaching. It is a pity our Infantry Regt. had not been left there - still we chased a Rebel Infantry Regt. Wheeler will probably destroy the bridge and pick up some stragglers - possibly some wagons - but we are without trains and have none on the way to join us that we know of.

in its results. But there still
 seems great reason to believe
 that thoughtful times, not a
 quarter of an hour ago, we
 learned that our country left
 left to grant the bridge of
 Charleston (the Thimble) but some
 away and that the Del. has
 in been not approaching. It is
 a fact, our infant left but
 out him left there - still we
 could a Del. infant left.
 whether will possibly destroy
 the bridge and pick up some
 struggle - possibly some weapon
 but we are resistant to
 and have more on the way
 to join me that we have

So Wheeler will find the rear
unusually dry.

It is a warm pleasant day
but I have had a bad cold
for some time. This will make
it better. We are in an old
hotel kept by a German who
has been a Consul for the U. S.
Govt. an old whig - He has a
fair library but mostly German
& French books. We have been
compelled to take books for our
artillery and soldiers taking
advantage of this have stolen
a great many - The people are
flocking in with all sorts of
complaints and I am exceedingly
sorry to find that many good
Union people have suffered -
Blair's Corps are regular robbers

to be better will find the year
 remarkably dry. It is a warm pleasant day
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roaming all over the country - I
 fear the Lord will not bless us
 if this practice is not stopped -
 The Episcopal Clergyman here
 an Englishman came in this
 morning - a staid old fellow
 with not over much polish -
 We took 75 Rebel wounded of
 Sunday's fight here - Expect a
 steamer up here to bring rations
 for Krugers Corps today. The
 Divⁿ of Jeff C. Davis which has
 been in over salamm considerably
 will now be the Reserve for
 this army.

Sherman is a hearty thorough-
 working commander - Will never
 be over cautious - and believes
 that the whole country in

morning all over the country -
for the first time out there
by the practice is not stopped
the principal objection here
on Englishman seems in this
morning - a strike all fallen
and lost our much feared
we took 70 held number of
thirty fight too - expect
steamer up due to being taken
for transport cargo ship, the
ship of off C. Davis which has
been in our command
will now be the Queen for
the army.
Thompson is a sharp though
nothing remarkable - will
be our assistant - and I
that the whole country is

Rebellion ought to be devastated.
 Longstreet may escape into Va.
 or into South through a
 portion of North Carolina. and
 he may give us battle. We
 have enough to meet him even
 though Burnside should do
 nothing and of course he may
 easily cooperate.

The country we marched through
 in coming from Parkers Gap
 (7 miles East of Ringold) here is
 much more thrifty than any
 we have seen before in the
 South. The villages are pleasant
 and what is most refreshing
 there are many Union people
 who receive us with open
 arms and give all the

Belgian ought to be distributed
sufficiently and escape into the
or into built through a
portion of the territory and
to many give us better
have enough to meet our
through Belgium should be
resting and of course to
easily cooperate.
The country we were in
in coming from Paris to
(17 miles East of Paris) here is
much more fertile than any
we have seen before in the
North. The village we passed
and what is most refreshing
there are many trees
and we were in the
forest and give all the

information they can - Dr. Hubbard is still with us, remaining voluntarily till the campaign is over when he will go home - Dr. L. Brinton - new med. director is a fine gentleman. Capt Stinson rode last night to Morgantown to Gen. Sherman not getting back till 2 this morning - Ballack is away back in Lookout Valley and has \$50 of my money besides a letter containing \$100 - directed to father which he may have mailed - I got my pay for October just before we started - We have not seen a newspaper since the great battle. The Editor sent me the

information they can - Dr.
 Hubbard is still with us,
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 to leave - Dr. J. Brewster was
 with Brewster in a few places
 was Capt. Brewer was out
 night to Washington to look
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Cincinnati Gazette grates and I will send you some copies if I find anything worth the while - I wrote a recital of the four (4) days fighting and pursuit of the Enemy - It was almost too much like a statement of bare events or military movements to be interesting and as the Gazette has correspondents here who probably wrote more attractive accounts I doubt if mine is published - I did write two or three articles or letters to the Boston Journal signed "Zephyrus" - Did you see them?

Please give much love to Ella - I have looked in vain for her and all letters lately - I suppose you are beginning to have snow - Last Sunday

I am writing to you again
 of a few surprising events the
 while - I write a letter of
 the four (4) days fighting and
 the point of the country - It was
 almost the same like a state
 of four events or meetings
 to be interesting and
 as the fight was very hard
 the whole probably events were
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 you are interested - I'll write
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 to the Boston Journal signed
 "Jefferson" - Did you see them?
 These you must have to
 them - I have looked in vain
 for the last all letters but
 I suppose you are waiting to
 hear more - but I am

and Monday were as cold here as they ever have been and I never was more uncomfortable from the cold than when we first started in the early mornings of those days - Thermometer said 18° above zero. This place is small and like all villages long occupied by troops is filthy & dilapidated.

I feel as though there must have been a good deal of faithful prayer, and the Lord's time had come - a kind Providence has been with us all along - Dawn at Charleston the Rebels left behind plenty of excellent timber from which we bridged the Savannah in one night - They left flour & meal for our men as our cannon prevented

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 as they have been
 and I never was more surprised
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 time that was - a kind of
 the time with us all away -
 some at Charleston the other
 left behind part of the
 the first time and was
 the weather in the night -
 stay left for a while for our
 some the same time

them from taking it away or
destroying the cars. They left wet
and therefore we could use
the numerous sheep and cattle
on the road - Tell me about
Thanksgiving at Farmington - I
don't know as I will be able
to mail this for the present -
all I trust will eventuate
favorably and we will not
fail to give the Lord praise.
your affectionate brother
C H Howard.

their from taking it away or
destroying the car, they left out
and therefore we could see
the numerous sleep out with
on the road - till we about
the beginning of tomorrow - I
don't know as I will be able
to mail this for the present -
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forwardly and we will not
fail to give the best prices.
Your affectionate brother
C. H. H. H.

12/4/1863 *From:* C.H. Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B.
Howard]

CHH-121c

Hdqrs. 11th Corps
Loudon Tenn.

Farmington, Me.

[This is a copy of a letter written in a different hand than CH Howard.]

Mailed at East Orchard, Ky.
Dec 15, 1863

Hdqrs. 11th Corps
Loudon Tenn. Dec 4, 1863

Dear Brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

We are waiting here for other columns to get in position and cross the Little Tennessee when we will all move forward to the relief of Burnside and against Longstreet if we can find him. The latter has about 30,000 men and made an unsuccessful though but a partial attack on Burnside last Sunday. We can get no news since.

The garrison here escaped but we captured flour & meal enough to feed our command two or three days. This morning we put a Regt. across the river and they drove off the Cavalry videttes of the Enemy and just now I learn they have found four cannon abandoned by the Rebels. In our advance the 15th Corps comd'd by F. P. Blair has the right Wing. The 4th Granger the center and the 11th (ours) the left. Today we have been building our bridges across the Little Tenn. Sometimes we fear Burnside will not hold out (as he has only 15,000 and is probably short of provisions). Then again sometimes we fear Longstreet will get off to Va.

In the latter case we will congratulate ourselves on Burnside's relief and a campaign grandly successful and important in its results. But there still seems good reason to believe that Longstreet tarries. Not a quarter of an hour ago we learned that our cavalry Regt. left to guard the bridge at Charleston (the Hirvasee) had come away and that the Rebel Gen. Wheeler was approaching. It is a pity our {an} Infantry Regt. had not been left there - still we chased a Rebel Infantry Regt. Wheeler will probably destroy the bridge and pick up some stragglers - possibly some wagons - but we are without trains and have none on the way to join us that we know of. So Wheeler will find the rear unusually dry.

It is a warm pleasant day but I have had a bad cold for some time. This will make it better. We are in an old hotel kept by a German who has been a Consul for the U.S. Govt. an old Whig. He has a fair library but mostly German & French books. We have been compelled to take books {horses} for our artillery and soldiers taking advantage of this have stolen a great many. The people are flocking in with all sorts of complaints and I am exceedingly sorry to find that many good Union people have suffered. Blair's Corps are regular robbers roaming all over the country. I fear the Lord will not bless us if this practice is not stopped. The Episcopal Clergyman here - an Englishman - came in this morning - a staid old fellow with not over much polish. We took 75 Rebel wounded of Sunday's fight here. Expect steamer up here to bring rations for Granger's Corps today. The Div'n. Of Jeff C. Davis which has been in our column considerably will now be the Reserve for this Army.

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for October just before we started. We have not seen a newspaper since the great battle. The Editor sent {sends} me the Cincinnati Gazette gratis and I will send you some copies if I find anything worth the while. I wrote a recital of the four (4) days fighting and pursuit of the Enemy. It was almost too much like a statement of bare events or military movements to be interesting and as the Gazette has correspondents here who probably wrote more attractive accounts I doubt if mine is published. I did write two or three articles or letters to the Boston Journal signed "Zephyras". Did you see them?

Please give much love to Ella. I have looked in vain for hers and all letters lately. I suppose you are beginning to have snow. Last Sunday and Monday were as cold here as they ever have been and I never was more uncomfortable from the cold than when we first started in the early mornings of those days. Thermometer said 18° above zero. This place is small and like all villages long occupied by troops is filthy & dilapidated.

I feel as though there must have been a good deal of faithful prayer and the Lord's time had come. A kind Providence has been with us all along. Dawn at Charleston the Rebels left behind plenty of excellent timber from which we bridged Hirassee in one night. They left flour & meal for our men as our cannon prevented them from taking it away or destroying the cars. They left salt and therefore we could use the numerous sheep and cattle on the road. Tell me about Thanksgiving at Farmington. I don't know as I will be able to mail this for the present - all I trust will eventuate favorably and we will not fail to give the Lord {God the} praise.

Your affectionate brother,
C.H. Howard

The man here who had been robbed by our
 soldiers of all he had. They found his house
 empty. Last night and before. No food &
 clothing (as some of them are without blankets) and
 perhaps ~~some~~ regular things & looking for any thing
 valuable. The owner was struck on each of the
 sides & occupied but came home today to find that
 the soldiers had not looted his property but the
 United States had. ~~He~~ devoted all!
 He began it with an excellent spirit and other
 men ~~unwilling~~ to turn ~~over~~ small means.
 Most right.

Dec. 7th Monday
Dear Dr. Davis' Good 'morn Little Tennessee - Evening
After another day's march - retrograde -
back across our wagon-bridge - We have had
one of the houses so common in this locality
made of logs and forty years old - Some specimens
of them are in the room showing some feather-fans
of various kinds & this is going to produce some
specimens to send home.
I fear Longmont will get off undisturbed
with Garner & that Granger is going to remain
with Brewer for the present. We may threaten
Bragg on our way back - via Athens & Cleveland
and fight him if he comes to meet us otherwise
I think we will return to Lookout Valley.

[illegible]

[illegible][illegible]

12/6/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-122

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps
Army of the Tennessee
Louisville, Tenn

Headquarters Eleventh Corps, Army of the Tennessee [The letterhead was originally the "Army of the Potomac". Potomac was crossed out and Tennessee hand written.]
Louisville, Tenn. Dec. 6th 1863.

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is late Sunday Evening and I have just returned from Knoxville which is fourteen miles from here by the route we took on this side of the river. Neither this Corps nor any of the forces under Gen. Sherman except Granger's Corps will proceed any further. Longstreet retreated from Knoxville night before last. The 11th Corps had reached this place last night and was nearer than any other troops. Had he remained we would have attacked him today. Gen. Sherman had given the command of his right Wing to Gen. F. P. Blair, his Center to Brig. Gen. Gordon Granger and his left to Gen. Howard, and issued the order that each column take the offense and attack the Enemy where ever and when ever and as soon as they could find him. By building our own bridge across the Little Tennessee, making use of Confederate Wagons we captured at Loudon, we were able to out strip the other troops. The river is 900 feet wide and we bridged it in one night working from Sunset till day-light when our troops began to cross. We took planks from Barn floors, hauled some from the Depot at Loudon. The wagons were attached to each other and then planks laid between. About one third of the bridge we built of trestle wood, not having wagons enough. We marched from Loudon at one A.M. Only two could cross the bridge at a time so that considerable delay was occassioned but we marched twenty miles and reached here soon after dark. We then communicated with Burnside and got an answer before morning.

I have given you no account of our recent grand victory over Bragg and I am too tired to do it tonight. Week ago today we turned our course from pursuing Bragg to try and catch Longstreet and at least relieve Burnside. Fortnight ago today the 11th Corps moved over from Lookout Valley into Chattanooga and on Monday 23'd Nov. the fighting began.

Today we learned at Knoxville that our forces have taken in all 10,000 prisoners. We have seen no papers and scarcely any one from Chattanooga since we left on Wed. 25th ult. I will not try to write more. I was glad of an opportunity to mail a letter to mother & one to Rowland today. I don't know how soon they will get thro' to Cincinnati - over the mountains & wagon roads. They go by Courier lines. We are with a Union man Mr. Foster who came here today for the first time since Longstreet came up here.

Otis is reading his Testament. He gave \$50 to a Union man here who had been robbed by our soldiers of all he had. They found his home empty last night and broke in to get food & covering (as some of them are without blankets) and perhaps they were regular thieves looking for anything valuable. The owner was about on acct. of the Rebel occupation but came home today to find that the Rebels had not touched his property but the Union soldiers had stolen and devastated all! We heard it with an excellent spirit and Otis has remunerated him in some small measure.

Good night.

Dec. 7th Monday

"Davis' Ford" on Little Tennessee - Evening

Dear Dellie,

After another day's march retrograde I am back across our wagon bridge. We have Hd. Qrs. In one of the houses so common in this locality made of logs and forty years old. Some maiden old ladies strongly Union are our hostesses. One of them is in the room showing some feather-fans of various fowls & Otis is going to purchase some specimens to send home.

I fear Longstreet will get off undisturbed though I learned today that Granger is going to remain with Burnside for the present. We may threaten Bragg on our way back via Athens & Cleaveland and fight him if he comes to meet us otherwise I think we will return to Lookout Valley.

Gen. Burnside & staff were pretty confident they could have held Knoxville against any assault but from accounts of those who were in the Fort attacked (Sanderson) I concluded that they came very near getting Louisville, Tenn through the defenses. Knoxville must have been rather a flourishing little city - Streets paved - regularly laid out - built upon side of a hill - two or three churches - a nice banking-building now used for Provost Marshall's Office. Parson Brownlow ran away on Longstreet's first approach. Some of our staff dined with Mrs. B. (his wife) and saw his accomplished and heroic daughter. A Rebel Colonel taken prisoner in that assault (week ago Sunday) proved to be a brother of Mrs. Brownlow and at her request he had been paroled and was staying at her house, keeping his chamber most of the time however.

You may not be aware that we are marching without wagon-trains and have been actually campaigning on Popes principle - viz - ignoring our base of supplies. It was arranged that some steam boats should come up the Tennessee but they could not pass the shoals below Kingston. When we got back to Athens we will wait a day or two and try and get some supplies across from the river. Our troops are doing without coffee & sugar and we get all they have to eat from the country. We captured salt enough from the Rebels and so we took flocks of sheep and dozens of cattle collecting as we go.

We impress Mills and work them night and day grinding wheat. The people being so largely loyal, render us great assistance. One man has promised to dig a hundred bushels of potatoes which will give one day's rations of <> vegetables to the Corps. We will reach Sweet Water tomorrow. There I saw on my way up one of the prettiest and pleasantest young ladies of Union sentiments that it has ever been my good fortune to meet. So I say to Capt Stinson one will try and reach sweet "Sweet Water" tomorrow.

Otis has just gone to bed upon his Camp cot and I must not sit up long. He remarked just now "how wonderfully successful all of Gen. Grant's plans have been"!

A Kind Providence has blessed every movement. The Lord's time had come - that is the secret.

Burnside is now to be relieved by Foster. We may go with Sherman further West. I do not know. We like Sherman - is a hearty thorough-working Commander determined to use every means to put down this Rebellion. Do you get the Gazette (Weekly) I subscribed for you? They send it to me gratis and I will write some for it as I have already. I wrote a long acct. of the battle but I am uncertain whether it was published.

I would like a Leave after this Campaign but it is too far to go to Maine. Will you go or have you gone to Washington? The two maiden ladies here are large weighing about 200 lbs. each. Cousins of Jeff Davis but completely loyal.

You will with a true statement of the artillery captured by our forces. I have heard it variously stated from 36 to 75 pieces. I think about 60 will be the truth.

It is cold weather - with frost on the ground every morning - but you perhaps have snow. We are longing for a change of clothing as we have not seen our valises for more than two weeks. It will be nearly two more before we can reach them. I have taken off my undershirt once and stayed in the house while it was washed!

Burnside did not push out after Longstreet so vigorously as we thought he ought but he was rather too weak to do much besides being apathetic from long standing on the defensive. Capt. Stinson is about to ensconce himself in one of Marne Davis' feather beds and I will go and do likewise.

Please give Mother the news of this letter as speedily as possible as our mails have been very uncertain and even the one I mailed at Knoxville mail was old - written several days ago. I am pleased at your good situation with Palsifer. Go to the bottom of things in the Law. Get the first principles to start with and do not be super-ficial. Perhaps you need no such caution, but you will not take it amiss from an affectionate brother. May the Lord guide & bless you. My regards to Mr. Palsifir.

Very Affectionately,
C. H. Howard