my little prochet with dance I should have until You a trementously long letter upon this Hupendon's that. The paper for captund from the office of the Albert fat a flourishing Rebel paper published as its frame with fats - at the town it's miles above here - I believe I did not ant four but I wrote with Me Min for There on many warm auen Cety us men women and children there. Thermon Cought The Estate of the of their Post running own wito The home tains, trying to get off toward huth borolina Lengia - He was originally from new ferry but told Theman he was a beassingst - to theman Leys her theel advise his boundment to the court of Africa mice that is the oney place when becassin can be allowed - Item old Copies of the athers Tost thou that the Editio was a route Rebel , He had some pritty doughter and bullithe Vient I who browned Then had most viricing discussing with them to were way back. The Rebell got at this whole to Relie of your got while we way back to the Rebell got of this whole to Relie to the pepining on our way for the work of the work is the way for the separation on our way for the work of the work of the test of te To we had to repuilt it - taking another day and nights' work.

The Covalry guest len away in the stringth of a dumin of the tremy's opproach - toke is Luday - One week ago we writed Knoxville - We hear now that Brownike moved out in furnit of Longstout as Com as Grouper's Corps got up and that and Conjunction with Fort from Cambir land Gap and the Covalry, he had taken tooo prisoners Weste ago today at Knoxville - Two weeks ago toda, we left Chaning Bragg and humed our attention and our Course lowerds Longstrut the marched from Porters go in total oak mountains to blesveland - about 20 miles -I suppose Those tree you how we swang off from our base and have not get established any other. We have lived whom the Country and when the provisions taken from the ment . The talt we captured in the cars here going of laster I Think tree for returned to this place and with full for know we could do well snough for and toling thut cottle thogo. This is a wich com try- We have found hundreds of bushes of wheel and granding it at the miles the sufflied our for an with the stop of life. We now issue wheat for coffee and the toldier, get a quelity of molasses on hyraf monufactured him - tome buy; tome their or tob the families of their molasses - and we have several himes purchand fel. of it and issued it as a rotor of This Country was unte 1838 The land of the Chankees from the Hiwastee in the best del dong the Dennesta tilling a wrote tract of Southern Tennes norther buspia and Swithen Alabanca - John Rossel a the Chief of the notion lived at Chattoneoga-A he once lived in Sorkout Valley at the home we first accupied their) His brother lived here (at libertation). When the trutal that sent brooks to force the sensore of the Cherokus her Lott was and Command and has The door of his Cobie is there have he had built for door of the out buildings here. Louis Rosse fully com haded for the removal of the Cherokus at so much for head and the brook, only assisted in hunting their There and guarding their broughthin. Some found the they remain in the nountoins out East of here I some of the block flows in the veins of people still living in this squarter - Our of the fifting betil Margans (now dead) your porty Jadin - a toomen who was down here today Attivis just up the river and who set out with our or Show other females the other day - brown to the beth to Capture a Juhn probet has forthedwolf Indian blow. as for might will suppose. It is runing today and the souning are had a Number Home - Thunder & lighting the December is on unusual phenomena for me to witness. I Outfor the Roing learn will won set in - Hope we will get to our Courts first - The men on suffering much for their and sutin brigist, have been without blowlets Moraghout the Compagn - Morting out as the did first to battle and then without berning back pushing on ofthe Bragg and thence Obserping their course and hastening without pour

to the relief of Burnsed - Three weeks ago today our Toops merchest over with behollowings from Lockout Velley - So the Lundays most period, in our Com haigh - Tomorrow we will probably more on towards to beach an old laboration of the leads and old court - their time pressing round or over the more of the owe-inspiring Lookout which we so long looked upon almost with dread - a much never rout to Inothert Valley then warms the how pentions and the perunde which lotter com I now toler it for grow trol for wich thank me we followed it reveal times to I certainly must be sometime have described it to you. - whitten next? I do not know - If we com to late another dobt at Bragg's Grung (how com. before we return allowing there and more down when the meny's right flente men Dalton white the front or if strong sweigh, his left flank of the some time - Part break (the old becauditional) has a more beste brown then some your tolerted Correspondent So Iwill not presume to detat but will pray and is blessing upon whotever is perspond and undertaken and will him from that I have now of Theman, that be will execute his part with as might minded - willing and mergetic a style as Swen Break himself caned desire. I have written to Mr. Gilmon but know not when his exthesion. little Com go - no mail, mien we storted - motion of clothings of popular, or men - Got a supply of popular Collors of Penercity and I count ling up upon them to Keep of a respectable appearance - I find however, that I count (unlicked,) use them sother for Hockings, dissense of the to the times of times of the times of the times of times of times of the times of t to I have another to with. I. you bitter not format anything from their to

12/13/1863 From: C. H. Howard To: Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-132 Hd. qrs 11th Corps

Charleston (on the Hiwassee) Tenn.

Hd. grs 11th Corps

Charleston (on the Hiwassee) Tenn.

Dec 13 1863 [No date was given. Somebody had written in Dec, 1863. He refers to it being Sunday, which would be either 6, 13, 20, 27. The reference to the letter to Mr. Gilman, written on the 13th, I believe establishes it to be the 13th]

My dear brother [Dellie]

If Capt Stinson had not just upset my little pocket ink-stand I should have written you a tremendously long letter upon this stupendous sheet. The paper was captured from the office of the Athens Post - a flourishing Rebel paper publication as its name indicates - of the town 14 miles above here. I believe I did not write you but I wrote mother a brief letter from there. It is the County-town of McMinn Co. There are many warm union citizens - men, women and children there. Sherman caught the Editor of the Athens Post running away into the mountains, trying to get off toward North Carolina or Georgia. He was originally from New Jersey but told Sherman he was a Secessionist. So Sherman says he shall advise his banishment to the Coast of Africa since that is the only place where Secession can be allowed. Some old copies of the Athens Post show that the Editor was a rank Rebel. He had some pretty daughters and Gilbreth (Lieut.) who boarded there had most vivacious discussions with them to use a mild term.

You perceive we are wending our way back. The Rebels, while we were gone, got at and destroyed this Charleston R.R. Bridge which we spent a whole night in repairing on our way up. So we had to rebuild it - taking another day and night's work.

The cowardly Cavalry guard ran away on the strength of a rumor of the enemy's approach. Today is Sunday. One week ago we visited Knoxville. We hear now that Burnside moved out in pursuit of Longstreet as soon as Granger's Corps got up and that in conjunction with Foster from Cumberland Gap and the Cavalry, he has taken 5000 prisoners, week ago today at Knoxville.

Two weeks ago today we left chasing Bragg and turned our attention and our course towards Longstreet. We marched from Parker's Gap in White Oak mountains to Cleaveland - about 20 miles. I suppose I have told you how we swung off from our base and have not yet established any other. We have lived upon the Country and upon the provisions taken from the Enemy. The salt we captured in the cars here going up lasted I think till we returned to this place and with salt you know we could do well enough for meat - taking sheep, cattle & hogs. This is a rich country. We have found hundreds of bushels of wheat and grinding it at the mills thus supplied our forces with the staff of life. We now issue wheat for coffee and the soldiers get a quantity of molasses or syrup manufactured here - some buy - some steal or rob the families of their molasses. And we have several times purchased bbls. of it and issued it as a ration.

This Country was until 1838 the land of the Cherokees - from the Hiwassee on the North East all along the Tennessee taking a wide tract of Southern Tennessee, Northern Georgia and Northern Alabama. John Rosse, the chief of the nation, lived at Chattanooga. It was then called Rossie's Landing. (It is said that he once lived in Lookout Valley at the house we first occupied there.) His brother lived here (at Charleston). When the United States sent troops to force the removal of the Cherokees, Gen. Scott was in command and had his Head quarters in a log cabin which he had built upon the very spot where stands this house in which I am writing. The door of his Cabin in still preserved, hung upon one of the out-buildings here. Louis Rosse and his brother John finally contracted for the removal of the Cherokees at so much per head and the troops only assisted in hunting them up and guarding their transportation. Some families still remain in the mountains out East of here. Considerably many are in the Rebel army. Some of their blood flows in the veins of people still living in this quarter. One of the fighting Rebel Morgans (now dead) was partly Indian. A woman who was down here today & lives just up the river and who set out with one or two other females the other day - armed to the teeth to capture a Yankee picket - has considerable Indian blood, as you might well suppose.

It is raining today and this evening we had a Thunder storm - Thunder & lightning in December is an unusual phenomenon for me to witness. I suppose the rainy season will soon set in. Hope we will get to our camps first. The men are suffering much for shoes and entire brigades have been without blankets throughout the campaign - starting out as they did first to battle and then without turning back pushing on after Bragg and thence changing their course and hastening without pause to the relief of Burnside.

Three weeks ago today our Corps marched over into Chattanooga from Lookout Valley. So the Sundays mark periods in our campaign. Tomorrow we will probably move on towards Chattanooga say to Cleaveland taking three days to reach our old Camp this time passing round or over the nose of the awe-inspiring Lookout Mt. which we so long looked upon almost with dread - a much nearer route to Lookout Valley than across the two pontoons and the peninsula which latter course I now take it for granted you understand since we followed it several times and I certainly must at some time have described it to you - Whither next? I do not know.

If we were to take another dabb at Bragg's Army (now commanded by Harden) I should think it better to do it before we return, allowing Sherman (with us) to move down upon the Enemy's right flank near Dalton while the troops from Chattanooga move out and strike his proper front or if strong enough, his left flank at the same time. But Grant (the old unconditional) has a more fertile brain than even your talented correspondent so I will not presume to dictate but will pray God's blessing upon whatever is proposed and undertaken and will insure from what I have seen of Sherman, that he will execute his part with as single-minded, willing and energetic a style as even Grant himself could desire.

I have written to Mr. Gilman but know not when his or this letter can go - no mails since we started - no change of clothing for officers or men. Got a supply of paper-collars at Knoxville and I count largely upon them to keep up a respectable appearance. I find, however, that I cannot (unluckily) use them either for stockings, drawers or undershirt.

As I have written to Mr. G. you better not furnish anything from this to him until you have seen that letter. You may if you choose make a selection for the Lewiston paper. If Gilman does not publish my letter of this date I wish you would get it of him some time. You can tell him you wish to preserve it. I have given no other account of this campaign up after Longstreet and apprehend I will not have opportunity to write a second.

Please keep all these things as confidential i.e. belonging to the family. Write me often. I don't know but that you are in Washington! In (I ought say) Bombay! Only I don't think it probable you would go to the latter place even though you had a half century to do it in. If you are in the land of Civilization please so state and I will get the letter when I arrive at the peaceful borders of the same.

My regards to Mr. & Mrs. P. if the latter remembers me.

Your Affectionate brother, C. H. Howard

P.S. Your letter which I wrote at <[torn]>. I sent to Chattanooga from Athens with one for Mother and one for Ella. Did Mother get one I mailed at Knoxville do you think?

Harry Jones Jan Jones whom which to begin a letter to a going lady I advanted I have and the last of that, you will find before I get through if your tratience holds I out I that I have swough to tell face Such to file a foolscap" that. Ad. gri. an at this hotel of this town the countyseat and most afredwall place of any in the up to Knowville Where we went as you will have learned to visit her. Long that but found him out. He went away bag and baggage, Journeying back to old Virgining", on Friday night and on Saturday night are reached Louisville and Communicated with Burnish at Knowville - 14015 mily dietout. Athens has a free brick Court-house - some good hich twooden hours - and two quite city- like Whiely. It is guite be old town for Heard one of the Elder cities mes vay vota, that they used to bring their goods by wagous from Buthmon (!!) or more. They come via Windeste Va. thence up The valley and by the South Western Corner of Virginia - there nearly by the course of the R.R. to Knowwill - The way way that Mr. Long street has taken with his \$25.000 men. Athens is partially of least a merry town tonight. Then are quit a goodly no. of huin families and besides the natural Exterioration poute presence of k. S. Troops - I have had the 33" mass. I soul blaying up on the baloner of This house all the svening unte a few months

ago and I now hear there in a distout quester gering but dreams to this Secessia by playing Janker Dook! that most destable of all times to the I genuine Reliel. WE may be here several days as it is proposed to get some supplies (a thing we have not seen so long ? hugar and coffee from a point on the Dennesser appoint here - coeled leathought - 20mm Dog sil miles comy their corgain to London but the thool, prevented East of us but are coming ben also for supplie. For have been impressing see the mistrules in the togions when we have been and grinding wheat might and day - We captund from the Kebels on one way up (at bhorbestin 14 miles below here on the Hewasser river ) sult mough to lest the Corps till now - to by taking battle, their and hogs our men have got along ratifactority. Once we got hold of rome lick - wheat" - an article I here heard of tile within a day or two but it Come new disobling (the Homorchy of) all the men who had the meefortune to sat it. Sort night we were at Tweetwater and a north place I have not found in East Tennessen - no not in all our compaigning in the West - and I don't Know but bot I house medide Old Virgining too but for the hierariceble memory of a certain female Ritel called by forme Miss Mountaille" Though The place when this Rebil in Loud's clothing in desided and of whom I wrot for a full accounted a previous letter never the less when their coul wor is over and I am on my happy way round Calling sweet best of and are passing up their delightful vally vin bleaveland - bhotesten - Attens - Sweetwate - Philadelphin - Soudon - Unition and Soursville to Know will, I shall certainly plan to take Lupper and Brokfost.

time in demonstrating to a certain their forming Com-front of a rich and honor father, a lady- like and against. mother and a beautiful daughter) that my min sentiments become unchanged; and in sudserving to ascertain what the Contraction of the sudserving to el. Sed 0 ascerting whithe the found ledy is as strongly in former of the union as the was an the morning of the get of December 1863. Sil I mention coffee and rugar? It weight upon en 6 who my mind - not the coffee and rugar for but the colounding announcement made by our mess-mon to-Me have later must of one neces with the good phi. the hum puple or other Choice formilies on the mach in 44 hapen to Kut up our supply - The people bone wheat 7 Effer or sweet wilk and some few have a little offer 6 with a good deal of dried most- potato - but that our right royally longel formily I have mentioned at sweet houtwater had the gomein article of affect the real old forhims Rio - for single know they 1 ck day belonged to the Constitution as it was and the hum that there be - But the aguestin unter hund of my lister must be tolesfiel - and Know that Mr. H. was wise mough to get a quantum sufficiet of coffee and like luxuries from Somewille at an Early e Haze of the war and the hope the holds good. We sylect see. Themen here tomorrow the' The borders of Rangin and in the mountains. ~ in We have heard that Brokenings is coming This way with a longe army to west us-butdo not credit it. Rebel Covalry were here costeday eling ou of aux Anjedes amind at Charleston and found ly that the five brige (R. R.) which we had repaired Vel. and made fit for crossing Troops tortilly, working one entire night, had been distroyed - The Cavaly left by themen to great it han away - a fuck of counts.

thus for attended as throughout this Compaign the grantimbers wined not been and the Rebies failed to destroy the bridge so but that we can repair it in half a day or little more and it will be don lomono or next day. If the meny there com up this way we would hitse the line of the Ho iwassee which is gente a river - novigoble by much boots to tehaliston. Novert for think it about time for us to have a chang of clothing - going on to those wicks since we left our Volins in Tookout Valley? - I got some bopen collars at Knowille - of course I was bound to there when I returned to Severtwate. I had then (31 (Externagent!) pairs of Jocks along and my "Wash". (black) by occasional washing has kept my fedal sytremetics clean, clad. as I weak their their occasion span one at a hime to be washed to you observe I make a thirthe to leup Clean - I I do not have a change of dotting - If wither things fail and they book look real as they have for some days time the blocking gove out) I make god account of the paper - ciblors and now I am removed Contemplating waring there obant my and, and a. Wes - I thall not probably result to the waless of I wit a lette to Rouland while at London and winter it throngville last Junday - I mailed on to mother them of the bountime withen previously it London also and which I thought I had lost - I found Know will a pleasant tom making considerable pretentions to a cet: I was up in the First 'Sanderson" they have named it from the going and brone remod he Kelled when Longstrut first crossed the sever at Loudon) which motomed the assault week ago Sunday. It. Benjamin for will remember - It was his fortand he behaved morpely - With his own hands clashed of the fort and were too new and council to be harmed by The osteller, firing - Sov himmerred in that very detal and

12/9/1863 From: C. H. Howard To: Ella Howard

CHH-123 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Athens (Tenn.)

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Athens (Tenn.) Dec 9 1863

My dear Sister Ella [Howard, Rowland's wife]

This is rather a delicate sheet upon which to begin a letter to a young lady I acknowledge but besides the fact that this is the only kind of paper I have and the last of that, you will find before I get through (if your patience holds out) that I have enough to tell you even to fill a "foolscap" sheet.

Hd. qrs. are at the hotel of this town - the county seat and most considerable place in the vicinity. We marched through here on our way up to Knoxville - where we went as you will have learned to visit Mr. Longstreet but found him out. He went away bag and baggage journeying "back to Old Virginny", on Friday night and on Saturday night we reached Louisville and communicated with Burnside at Knoxville - 14 or 15 miles distant.

Athens has a fine brick court-house - some good brick & wooden homes - and two quite city-like streets. It is quite an old town for I heard one of the Elder citizens say today that they used to bring their goods by wagons from Baltimore (!!) before the R.R. was built - a dozen years ago or more. They came via Winchester Va. thence up the valley and by the South Western Corner of Virginia - thence nearly by the course of the R.R. to Knoxville - the very way that Mr. Longstreet has taken with his 25,000 men.

Athens is partially at least a merry town tonight. There are quite a goodly no. of Union families and besides the natural exhilaration from the presence of U.S. troops. I have had the 33d Mass Band playing up on the balcony of this house all the evening until a few moments ago and I now hear there is a distant quarter giving bad dreams to Miss Secession by playing "Yankee Doodle" that most detestable of all tunes to the genuine Rebel.

We may be here several days as it is proposed to get some supplies (a thing we have not seen so long I doubt my ability to define it). At any rate some sugar and coffee from a point on the Tennessee opposite here - called Cottonport - some dozen (?) miles below Kingston I believe. The Steamboats started to carry their cargoes to Loudon but the Shoals prevented their going any further. Sherman's forces are East of us but are coming here also for supplies. We have been impressing all the Gristmills in the region where we have been and grinding wheat night and day. We captured from the Rebels on our way up (at Charleston 14 miles below here on the Hiwassee River) salt enough to last the Corps till now. So by taking Cattle, Sheep and hogs our men have got along satisfactorily. Once we got hold of some "Sick Wheat" - an article I never heard of till within a day or two but it came near disabling (the stomachs of) all the men who had the misfortune to eat it.

Last night we were at Sweetwater and a sweeter place I have not found in East Tennessee - no not in all our campaigning in the West - and I don't know but that I should include "Old Virginny" too but for the ineradicable memory of a certain female Rebel called by some "Miss Mountville" though this I believe to be a fictitious name derived from the place where this Rebel in Lamb's clothing resided and of whom I wrote you a full account in a previous letter. Nevertheless when this cruel war is over and I am on my happy way round calling upon all my innumerable friends, acquaintances and sweethearts found while campaigning and am passing up this delightful valley via Cleveland - Charleston - Athens - Sweetwater - Philadelphia - Loudon - <Sluition> and Louisville to Knoxville, I shall certainly plan to take Supper and Breakfast at sweet Sweetwater and spend the intermediate time in demonstrating to a certain union family (composed of a rich and honest father, a lady-like and agreeable mother and a beautiful daughter) that my union sentiments remain unchanged; and also in endeavoring to ascertain whether the young lady is as strongly in favor of the union as she was on the morning of the 9th of December 1863.

Did I mention coffee and sugar? It weighs upon my mind - not the coffee and sugar but the astounding announcement made by our mess-man tonight that it was all gone from our larder (ambulance). We have taken most of our meals with the good union people or other choice families on the march in hopes

to keep up our supply. The people have wheat coffee or sweet milk and some few have a little coffee with a great deal of dried sweet-potato - but that our right royally loyal family I have mentioned at sweet Sweetwater had the genuine article of coffee - the real old-fashioned Rio. You might know they belonged to the Constitution as it was and the Union that shall be. But the inquisitive mind of my sister must be satisfied - and know that Mr. H. was wise enough to get a quantum sufficit of coffee and like luxuries from Louisville at an early stage of the war and the supply still holds good.

We expect Gen. Sherman here tomorrow tho' he is now away off at Tellico plains near the borders of Georgia and in the mountains. We have heard that Breckenridge is coming this way with a large army to meet us - but do not credit it. Rebel cavalry were here yesterday P.M just before our advance reached here. Today one of our Brigades arrived at Charleston (14 miles below) and found that the fine bridge (R.R.) which we had repaired and made fit for crossing troops & artillery, working one entire night, had been destroyed. The Cavalry left by Sherman to guard it ran away - a pack of cowards - but under the same kind Providence which has thus far attended us throughout this successful campaign the green timbers would not burn and the Rebels failed to destroy the bridge so but that we can repair it in half a day or little more and it will be done tomorrow or next day.

If the enemy should come up this way we would hold the line of the Hiwassee which is quite a river - navigable by small boats to Charleston.

Wouldn't you think it about time for us to have a change of clothing - going on to three weeks since we left our valises in Lookout Valley? I got some paper collars at Knoxville - of course I was bound to shine when I returned to Sweetwater. I had three (3) (extravagant!) pairs of (white) socks along and my "Wash." (Black) by occasional washing has kept my pedal extremities cleanly clad. As wear three shirts I can easily spare one at a time to be washed so you observe I make a shift to keep clean. If I do not have a change of clothing - if other things fail and the boots look red (as they have for some days since the blacking gave out) I make good account of the paper collars and now I am seriously contemplating wearing them about my wrists and ankles. I shall not probably resort to this unless I am not back on duty to sweet Sweetwater.

I wrote a letter to Rowland while at Loudon and mailed it at Knoxville last Sunday. I mailed one to Mother there at the same time written previously at Loudon also and which I thought I had lost. I found Knoxville a pleasant town making considerable pretensions to a city. I was up in the Fort ("Sanderson" they have named it from the young and brave General <S.> killed when Longstreet first crossed the river at Loudon) which sustained the assault week ago Sunday.

Lt. Benjamin you will remember. It was his fort and he behaved manfully. With his own hands dashed the shells in among the Rebels after they got into the ditch of the fort and were too near and well covered to be harmed by the artillery firing. 300 surrendered in that very ditch and the rest retreated with heavy loss from the severe musketry poured upon them from the fort. Benjamin was at <church> when we reached Knoxville. Some of the staff dined with Mrs. Brownlon and had the honor to meet her heroic daughter whom they all pronounce to be a most perfect lady and very charming - about 25 - intelligent and beautiful. The Parson and Hon. Horace Maynard decamped when Longstreet approached.

For ourselves I know not when next dear Ella but think we must return to camp for a little while as many of our men are barefooted and no shoes can be procured here. We are 70 miles yet from Chattanooga. We wait orders from Gen. Grant. Otis is well but a little vexed with some of his sub-commanders who have suffered straggling & stealing to some extent. Not <border="text-align: center;">bottom camp for a little while as many of our men are barefored and no shoes can be procured here. We are 70 miles yet from Chattanooga. We wait orders from Gen. Grant. Otis is well but a little vexed with some of his sub-commanders who have suffered straggling & stealing to some extent. Not <border="text-align: center;">bottom camp for a little while as many of our men are barefooted and no shoes can be procured here. We are 70 miles yet from Chattanooga. We wait orders from Gen. Grant. Otis is well but a little vexed with some of his sub-commanders who have suffered straggling & stealing to some extent. Not <border="text-align: center;">bottom camp for a little while as many of our men are barefooted and no shoes can be procured here. We are 70 miles yet from Chattanooga.

Very affectionately C. H. Howard

with much love to fetter 961. gn. 11 the Coops Iwill drove to a dove -Imagin us in a large Atheris - Macmin Co. Jam. My den hottes DEC. 10. 1863 bed Charitan - Corpoted and Elegenthe fremished - Oto always has his Camp I will have an offertu mit to lend a latter to bhattenoge cot but leapt. Ituson & by the office we an to had this I deign to theep in heds anche, we find - Me for Coffee Theyer Throw for our trop, He will start at 11 trought frought along our robes Which we are obliged to work and now it is ten o'clock. IN & leave been lestoning to music levue in peather bed, and Canalides and all some from the 33 Thurs Bond. "un. from - When this Com Therman is we town and has bun how (at Mr. telanges) when pain is our That to our Hd. ger. are. The come how a leave of observer A least to jut get some to love festerdey. He come today and we gave up our Hayer. Clother at Louisville Ky. at the listel to have and have Who Land deal, kindly with lector hen. Mr. Claige is a is - May this blessing he how main and his wife is when four tall whom we love ung much of a large Mr at howy is my dang from with hopper twell take all an you effection son Onevels with them. They have W. Howard

this will bring us 15 miles plent, of negro servants. He herm Chattonoogo. WE with is the Eastin of the Plantes In Kup lest Hennesser Entine Bank of Timester - gent Clear of Miles while we wealthy. Althous is a pleasant one him of any rate. form - WE hay remain revend Thinks a great many win Sen Grout at Louden on proft fut I thank they all The lost to get some unit our way who and smould The This true I Wed one you lelle last Sunday at Knox wille - NE her ty Ten, then They - Hi have got some men that Brunde moved leather her and are bur. unt in present of Songstreet playing all the took, orly, after we left but with what making thoes - The got result we do not Know The Home pull also from a force unde Fort at Enur. Kill coly su and we buland got moved also upon One alway, find plent, Singitient's flower and is said of fresh but I button. It have a pertin of the like I send with this a army in a typt place to letter to NEllie and use a phrase. - I think we a long our to Ella will more down to black the This is seash puper in the Himasser River roin

12/10/1863 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-124 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps

Athens - McMinn Co.

Tenn

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Athens - McMinn Co. Tenn

Dec 10, 1863

My dear Mother

I will have an opportunity to send a letter to Chattanooga by an officer we are to send there for Coffee & Sugar & Shoes for our troops. He will start at 11 tonight and now it is ten o'clock.

We have been listening to music from the 33d Mass Band. Gen. Sherman is in town and has been here (at Mr. Claige's) where our Hd. qrs. are. We came to town yesterday. He came today and we gave up our Hd. qrs at the Hotel to him and have <Camped> here. Mr. Claige is a union man and his wife is very much of a lady. We took Supper & will take all our meals with them. They have plenty of Negro servants. He is the cashier of the Planters Bank of Tennessee - quite wealthy. Athens is a pleasant town. We may remain several days waiting orders from Gen. Grant.

I wrote you at Loudon on our way up and mailed the letter last Sunday at Knoxville. We hear by Gen. Sherman that Burnside moved out in pursuit of Longstreet after we left but with what result we do not know. The force under Foster at Cumberland Gap moved also upon Longstreet's flanks and is said to have a portion of the Rebel Army in a tight place to use a phraze. I think we will move down to Charleston on the Hiwassee River soon. This will bring us 15 miles nearer Chattanooga. We wish to keep East Tennessee entirely clear of Rebels while we are here at any rate.

There are a great many Union people but I think they all wish to retain "the institution".

We hope to get some mail this time. I read over your good long letter again today. We have got some leather here and are employing all the tools & shops making shoes. We got some salt also from a Rebel citizen and we can always find plenty of fresh beef & mutton.

I send with this a letter to Dellie and a long one to Ella.

This is "Secesh" paper. With much love to father. I will draw to a close. Imagine us in a large bed chamber - carpeted and elegantly furnished. Otis always has his camp cot but Capt. Stinson & I deign to sleep in beds such as we find. We brought along our robes which we are obliged to make serve as feather beds and Coverlids and all some times. When this campaign is over I hope to have a leave of absence at least to go & get some clothes at Louisville Ky.

The Lord deals kindly with us. May His blessing be upon you & all whom we love at home is my daily prayer.

Your Affectionate Son C. H. Howard

At bleaveland done few flags win flying - It is a near and before the war a florerishing village- att the Corner of the triongle forms by Roil Roads - the one going to tehattenough, The other to Latton. We head of a mose for a gh lebester but hoped to prevent their destroying the budy across the Hiwasin - hon after non or reached there - Our Minister, anshed forward into love and we saw The Make, enning like tels upon the other wide of the siver They had mecendral in destroying the h. Kital. over hirming how of the tright teether and the puntion they had portiall distored Dwinging it round to the offente book - With on withley we drove the Reta from a train of con form which they were trying to Extract come hopeplus on the other side of the Siver - peshops trying to burn the, train . From lest . Ortans Inith had continue of his briging across by boots and who centereds of the can , sing flow snough for the Cops for the days - Salt Tour for a larger period, and some other attel of lass confortance. Some cashes of large neil, is Mules were among the tisted, and they town all the proneers and show from Smith's Brigade were at one let at work under charge of a mouster of the Cops that and before day - light west

Sed. gr. 11 the Army Coops Charleston - (on the Hiwassee River) Jenn. Dec. 13th 1863 Mr. Celinan They dear his

The Welegroph will have an normand the important movements, the bettles and West long before, this - In fact I count the when this will reach a mail-route - No hove received no mail mer we started in pursuit of Brigg how. 21th (Thoulesgiving day) - It is seen now the third buildry and was not even apaper till yesterday and that dated Dro. 2 nd (from liminotti). He also low a Kebel paper of Drc. 1th Since we count hear from the lest of mankend nor some Read the Chronich of our own doings I will sudewn to Communicate to four some recetul of what we have been about of late.

I hall not dwell afor the magnificent operation, about lehettanooga which remeted in The grandest victory Ever attained by the Union long. In the herospoper we raw, all was gratified to find so correct and graphic through. but account of then by Quotestrater Ten. Meigo - I hope you have treated four leaders to a copy of the Jame as I know you would have done had give

On Folunte, nov. 29 Gen. Howard i Commend Constituted the left of the Combined army. The day before he had sent two Phyales to Ked Clay on the Dalton & Knowille R. R. to disting The R. R. Which was necessfully accomplished and some presoner, were captured in the Expedition. Reddelay may not be found ifor ordinary maps - It is on the fline technical Georgia and Sennesser and holf way between bleardand and Dather, This force of sen. Howard's thenfor flowled Dalter and her it was learned that I may would not halt in his retreat were at Dullow and that his army was already pressing book in all hat below Dallar and lowers Withoute. On Sunday how. 29 how. Theman Come monding Depotment of the Junesser and having under bien bentes the troops he had brought from humphis, the 11th army Joseps, and Davis Dira of Thomas' army, Started for the relief of Humside. They did not want for hifplies to come from Whetherouge - The brooks ever without Howhade, and the 11 terps has alresty been obsent from Jourf an setter week. Lower brigades had left som their blankets be hind an going ent. battle in front of Chattenage and had not get him able to selim to get There . There was no supply trom and no hope

of horning any as we were to more ducty away from our ban not attempting to kup connection with the same - It was the wied project of ignoring our base so rediculous in the tomes proposed by Pape in Virginia and Capable of being mocessfully Comed through men by the most resolute and festite of Commanders and In a Country like this Crowned with an obuse dence of provision. Hen Theman inquind of ren. Howard, whether he would be willing I undertite the Expedition with his Command without waiting or returning for hopping. There. Howard replied that he was zendy to do it it once. It was known that Burnish mas hard pressed and a hundred miles was be for us - to the morch was ordened soily have Column - Davis also morning in conjunction with his tops. Before hund we unched bleamlond tuning made twenty muly - thorning a for Mabel lovdry out of home. All along this day's morde We met with Eurost levin broph its come and they texple home out seemingly gratified it a right of the Yenters as the hotel of the Country to denominate the federal forces, seath stops Jullandy within doors, scowling through the triadow or not despring to look out at all.

morning a complete wagen bridge was finished to with touchy any delay we are an one much again and leashed Attens' the Cannty town of M' Min for before nights. Hen our Eyes com gristed with the sight of the flow thefer waving in fruit of some of the finest houses of the place - We began Is her runners of a fight Longstout had had had with Burnish and that his attack had been refelled. Our commissionis gathered in the Cattle and theep as we went and with our captured toll wer were about author provided with meat. Our Brilley homes had begun to give out on the first day of the march but the ortilley officers had orders to tohe the good homed the could buil upon the rante and give proper receipts for them. If the trones on longe the will receive their pay for there as well as for the cattle, forage and other recessories token - of Rebels, Never a cent. At Sweetwater our column patted as bour longer than the usual denner hast to allow Song's Ceralny Brigade to pass in hopes by a sudden date to some the Poulson - bride at London and possibly capture ben. Vaugha ofera, who , an good hum friends informal us, were Hall there. her. Sherman had his Hd igs. at Mr. Gen. Vaughi's at theetwater. The lody was at home and assured us (with considerable indistretion it was thought be come)

that her hurband ( rich Vougher ) wer thee at Low don and had not escape towarks hirth boroline as it was rumond. The lavalry captured the pickets and rushed on lowers London with great opposent boldness till they come near the love when a finer of ortilley opened and they Chow to a hidden Stand till - Commande and all - A legiment or low were dismounted and Kirmished a little and word was sent to the ter of the not of theys - Darkens, common and the Covely was thee moreivering and bad not get the town - the 11 forps also had model 23 miles and the hours delay had made there too lat to reach London with deep doleness had ret in - Our of their butters was sent forward but nothing was accomplished Except the demonstration that The Covalry Commander was confet for the humiers he had war taken to say the leastlung Vaugha mocadad in destroying 4 2 cars 3 de contines and any amount of story of all Kinds - were clothing on But quantities of ammunition worn destroyed - But of day light They morning when the 1the forps reached theplace They found again Confederate flow I mese sweap for leveral days - love hard-break and other buluth Commission stores. Books was immediate but weren Cavalry and both four replace common which I wans had been left by Varyhu in his hesty flight to Knowill.

12/13/1863 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Mr. Gilman

CHH-125 Hd. qrs. 11th Army

Corps

Charleston - (on the Hiwassee River) Tenn.

Hd. qrs. 11th Army Corps

Charleston - (on the Hiwassee River) Tenn.

Dec. 13th 1863

Mr. Gilman

My dear Sir

The Telegraph will have announced the important movements, the battles and the grand successes of our Armies here in the West long before you see this. In fact I cannot tell when this will reach a mailroute. We have received no mail since we started in pursuit of Bragg Nov. 26th - (Thanksgiving day). It is now the third Sunday and we have not even seen a paper till yesterday and that dated Dec. 2nd (from Cincinnatti). We also saw a Rebel paper of Dec. 1st. Since we cannot hear from the rest of mankind nor even read the Chronicle of our own doings I will endeavor to communicate to you some recital of what we have been about of late.

I shall not dwell upon the magnificent operations about Chattanooga which resulted in the grandest victory ever attained by the Union Army. In the newspaper we saw, all were gratified to find so correct and graphic though brief account of these by Quartermaster Gen. Meigs. I hope you have treated your readers to a copy of the same, as I know you would have done had you seen it.

On Saturday Nov. 29 Gen. Howard's command constituted the left of the combined Army. The day before he had sent two Brigades to Red Clay on the Dalton & Knoxville R.R. to destroy the R.R. which was successfully accomplished and some prisoners were captured in the expedition. Red Clay may not be found upon ordinary maps. It is on the boundary line between Georgia and Tennessee and half way between Cleaveland and Dalton. This force of Gen. Howard's therefore flanked Dalton and then it was learned that Bragg would not halt in his retreat even at Dalton and that his army was already pressing back in all haste below Dalton and towards Atlanta.

On Sunday Nov. 29th Gen. Sherman commanding Department of the Tennessee and having under him besides the troops he had brought from Memphis, the 11th Army Corps and Davis' Divn of Thomas' Army, started for the relief of Burnside. They did not wait for supplies to come from Chattanooga. The troops were without knapsacks and the 11th Corps has already been absent from Camp an entire week. Some brigades had left even their blankets behind on going into battle in front of Chattanooga and had not yet been able to return to get them. There was no supply train and no hope of having any as we were to move directly away from our base not attempting to keep connection with the same. It was the wild project of ignoring our base so ridiculous in the terms proposed by Pope in Virginia and capable of being successfully carried through only by the most resolute and fertile of Commanders and in a country like this crowned with an abundance of provisions. Gen. Sherman inquired of Gen. Howard on Saturday whether he would be willing to undertake the expedition with his Command without waiting or returning for supplies. Gen. Howard replied that he was ready to do it at once. It was known that Burnside was hard pressed and a hundred miles was before us. So the march was ordered early Sunday morning Gen. Howard having the right column - Davis' Divn also moving in conjunction with his Corps. Before sunset we reached Cleaveland having made twenty miles - chasing a few Rebel Cavalry out of town. All along this day's march we met with earnest Union people who come sometimes a mile or two to convey information and they turned out all along the road seemingly gratified at a sight of "the Yankees" as is the habit of the Country to denominate the federal forces. Secesh stays sullenly within doors, scowling through the windows or not deigning to look out at all.

At Cleaveland some few flags were flying. It is a neat and before the war was a flourishing village - at the Corner of the triangle formed by Rail Roads - the one going to Chattanooga, the other to Dalton. We heard of a small force at Charleston but hoped to prevent it destroying the bridge across the Hiwassee. Soon after noon we reached there. Our skirmishers rushed forward into town and we saw the Rebels

running like rats upon the other side of the river. They had succeeded in destroying the R.R. bridge overturning two of the high trestles and the pontoon they had partially destroyed cutting it loose and swinging it round to the opposite bank. With our artillery we drove the Rebels from a train of cars from which they were trying to extract some supplies on the other side of the river - perhaps trying to burn the train. Soon Col. <Voland> Smith had a portion of his brigade across by boats and captured the contents of the cars, seized flour enough for the Corps for three days - salt even for a longer period and some other articles of less importance. Some casks of large nails or spikes were among the articles and they came into requisition at once in rebuilding the bridge. All the pioneers and a large party of men detailed from Smith's Brigade were at once set at work under charge of a member of the Corps staff and before day-light next morning a complete wagon-bridge was finished.

So with scarcely any delay we were on our march again and reached Athens the County-town of McMinn Co. before night. Here our eyes were greeted with the sight of the Stars & Stripes waving in front of some of the finest homes of the place. We began to hear rumors of a fight Longstreet had had with Burnside and that his attack had been repelled. Our commissaries gathered in the Cattle and Sheep as we went and with our captured salt we were abundantly provided with meat. Our artillery horses had begun to give out on the first day of the march but the artillery officers had orders to take the good horses they could find upon the route and give proper receipts for them. If the owners are loyal they will receive their pay for these as well as for the cattle, forage and other necessaries taken - if Rebels, never a cent.

At Sweetwater our column halted an hour longer than the usual dinner halt to allow Long's Cavalry Brigade to pass in hopes by a sudden dash to save the Pontoon bridge at Loudon and possibly capture Gen. Vaughn & force, who our good Union friends informed us, were still there.

Gen. Sherman had his Hd. Qrs. At Mrs Genl. Vaughn's at Sweetwater. The lady was at home and assured us (with considerable indiscretion it was though by some) that her husband (Genl. Vaughn) was still at Loudon and had not escaped towards North Carolina as it was rumored. The Cavalry captured the pickets and rushed on towards Loudon with great apparent boldness till they came near the town where a piece of artillery opened and they came to a sudden stand still - command and all. A regiment or two were dismounted and skirmished a lttle and word was sent to the rear of the state of things. Darkness came on and the Cavalry was still maneuvering and had not got the town. The 11th Corps also had marched 23 miles and the hour's delay had made them too late to reach Loudon until deep darkness had set in. One of their batteries was sent for and but nothing was accomplished except the demonstration that the Cavalry Commander was unfit for the business he had undertaken to say the least.

Gen. Vaughn succeeded in destroying 42 cars 3 locomotives and any amount of stores of all kinds - even soldiers clothing. Great quantities of ammunition were destroyed. But at day light next morning when the 11th Corps reached the place they found again Confederate flour & meal enough for several days - some hard bread and other valuable commissary stores. Troops were immediately put across the Tennessee in boats who chased away the Rebel Cavalry and took four rifled cannon which it seems had been left by Vaughn in his hasty flight to Knoxville.

Toleveland - Dec 16 1873 Orion way to Lovery Vall Twice reach the in two days of Harry does not attack is in the left lank - not how eltis from you here - within after Thanks growing -



12/16/1863 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* unknown

CHH-126 Cleveland TN

[This appears to be a postscript to another letter]

Cleveland [TN] Dec 16 1863

On our way to Lookout Valley & will reach there in two days if Hardee does not attack us in the left flank. Got two letters from you here written after Thanksgiving - the first mail for 3 weeks. Hope to find some more at our Camp. Col. Hiram Hayes has arrived from Army of Potomac as our Quarter Master. All Well. C.H.H.

A de to the second state of the second state o Doily way the come, to we by mail and the n. f. Inbane to Oti, - both rent to us grates - The totumes by the nose of Sookout mountain instead of Crossing the portory of Then we went to to trattaworga - The sides of Tookout on very West worky and frecipitari - I con hordy underto how the brough could client up then to say nothing of Fighting - But the Last day a two - The made this bruth is then was very lettle officition freeze from Colonsland - Their Young one Bryade being on this vide and we lived like princes - The the that was rewritty Captured by the rad\_ ( the ) teeft. Stenson to of the !! denness of the movement But after leaching the for and attempting, france of Mr. Craigniles who was post down the other side the pussy wruthy and a flound union the wer hothy disputed and held against His wife is any hospitable - Sitter Hooker's men but the Kelier whento I day the foundlass of Auch to see in the night. The popular on full of gron - We were not with Hooke of all. In part promist - Dright defin las But ofter our loops opened communication & Hoe stand of the house of a sign It length swarched up and prines his army and test minister at Type's Plation on did not leave him till gertenday, the heart and

The Knoxville Hohottonooge R. K. We had then begon to got noto the legion where the Rebel Com, has (ucamped somewhat - bas onny too had meft through there - The old gentlemen whom now was Idensy Gotcher had had svery they Hopt pour him - thing by Gaz 1. E. hum tolden - The Hebels has Coten his provisions - process; polates Em 40 but the Federals took the blukets & coulid, from his bedg. It is wife was an old lady and of Lower was much effected at the Losses - They had hirdy Twangh to Much off Horrishin - ME gave them plan (a bitte) and rome suppro Coffee is we had had a transcome of the latter. Fra ferrow ar land

sisting from the country and from What we captured of the Rebal, While gover - for three weeks. I think that great very good leason to Thouk and last night when expely back again to our tent after howing hund through so many dangers and through all This Rough and orderer Campanya and come out to well, I also fruid waiting me there latter, very grat treat - our Rawloud - our from Siegzie Strickland at Chicago - Ctoking Frud lessons) and the from Miss france crey - Otis had a days or men - our late one from Leggie ogy Isobella was with her as would be in a dezer two. We get some letters at Cleaveland and then first how were newspaper - But we found Down Roses of the latter westing us since the Concumble

upon our good Sord who delight to leve. Houses reached us at belove been them for my? Intelle thought loud having come from the old you seemed not quite wree, Think 2" Div. 2 mo forts Amy of Tolomac. of the great things i kind brondence He used to live with Mr. torwall and is doing for us - Think how He ames ver Clark in Washington - Itis founds er all along in health & prosperts and (brother to) live in formington. Souft. mun they Everything the allows us to bross on new aid de fourf - toking how be useful - do musting for this Kingdom liniffith's blace her also just lowed us from Ever affectionate Son le H. Howard

be much better than it is to accoment leve. Bullock lays he rent the teth What little I have got all in one Contouring my \$100 - love ofthe be head place - as to luch Henry I showed The remet of the battle - The an ace any happy for the prosperty host has not put myself into his houds-wer bunchrofed to our Cauce - Thope our Month I believe her desposed to brot notion vice not forget that it is the me with the gratest thudren. Lord Daughty who regneth and giveth I am sorny to bear that lower looks orday to whom he will. my a little when and thou that four hast With I am commend it would East you lag all borders of this kind

12/17/1863 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-127 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley Dec 17 1863

My dear Mother

Yesterday we reached our old Camp. Many of the men without shoes - a hard march the last day or two. We made two days from Cleveland. Then we lived like princes. The General (Otis) Capt Stinson & I at the house of Mr. Craigmiles who, is very wealthy and a staunch union man. His wife is very hospitable. His daughter, young lady of about 16 years a good pianist - night before last we stayed at the house of a Baptist minister at Tyner's Station on the Knoxville & Chattanooga R.R.

We had then begun to get into the region where the Rebel Army had encamped somewhat. Our Army too had swept through there. The old gentleman whose name was Henry Gatcher had had every thing stript from him chiefly by our i.e. Union Soldiers. The Rebels had taken his provisions - poultry, potatoes, corn &c but the Federals took their blankets & coverlids from his bed. His wife was an old lady and of course was much afflicted at the losses. They had hardly enough to keep off starvation. We gave them flour (a little) and some sugar & coffee as we had had a train come to meet us with two days rations of the latter. You know we lived entirely from the country and from what we captured of the Rebels while gone - for three weeks.

I think I had a great, very great, reason to thank God last night when safely back again to our tent after having passed through so many dangers and through all this rough and arduous Campaign and came out so well. I also found waiting me three letters - very great treat - one from Rowland - one from Lizzie Strickland at Chicago (taking French lessons) and one from Miss Jeanie Gray. Otis had a dozen or more - one late one from Lizzie saying Isabella was with her as would be in a day or two. We got some letters at Cleveland and there first saw some newspapers. But we found some scores of the latter since the Cincinnati Daily Gazette comes to me by mail and the N.Y. Tribune to Otis - both sent to us gratis. We returned by the nose of Lookout Mountain instead of crossing the pontoons as when we went to Chattanooga. The sides of Lookout are very steep, rocky and precipitous. I can hardly understand how the troops could climb up there to say nothing of fighting. But the truth is there was very little opposition (only one Brigade being on this side and that was mostly captured by the suddeness of the movement). But after reaching the top and attempting to pass down the other side the passage was hotly disputed and held against Hooker's men but the Rebels retreated in the night.

The papers are full of errors. We were not with Hooker at all. But after our Corps opened communication with Sherman we began to cooperate with him & at length marched up and joined his army and did not leave him till yesterday. Hooker had Col. Hayes reached us at Cleveland having come from the old 2nd Divn 2nd Corps Army of Potomac. He used to live with Mr. Farwell and was Clerk in Washington. His family (brother, &c) live in Farmington. Capt Cross our new Aide de Camp - taking poor Griffeth's place has also just joined us.

Col. Balloch says he sent the letter containing my \$100 soon after he heard the result of the battle. We are all very happy for the prosperity God has vouchsafed to our cause. I hope our nation will not forget that it is the Lord Almighty who reigneth and giveth victory to whom He will.

You spoke of my investing in the West. I am convinced it would be much better than it is to accumulate what little I have got all in one place. As to Uncle Henry I should not put myself into his hands even though I believe him disposed to treat me with the greatest kindness.

I am sorry to hear that you are looking a little sober and show that your heart is considerably filled with anxiety. Can't you lay all burdens of this kind upon our good Lord who delights to bear them for us? Isabella thought you seemed not quite well. Think of the great things a kind Providence is doing for us. Think how He carries us all along in health & prosperity and more than every thing else allows us to be useful - (i.e.) do something for this Kingdom.

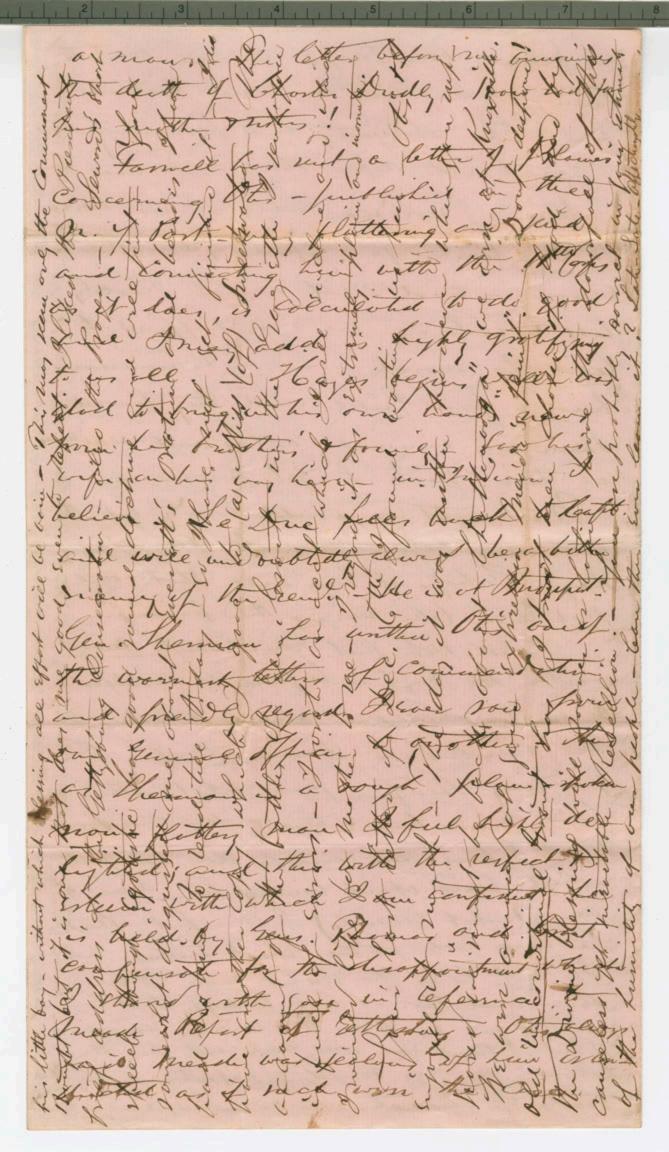
You ever Affectionate Son C. H. Howard

A small command and acted under Gen. Grant's orders entirely but the newspapers seem to resound with his famous doings. He even has the credit in some of taking Missionary Ridge which was done by Gen Thomas. But it matters little what individual gets the credit so that our cause triumphs. I cannot, however, withhold my extreme admiration for the man who planned ordered and managed the execution of all these battlements. I mean Gen Grant whom God has given to lead our armies to victory. We are delighted to have our new Qr. Mr. Col. Hayes. His appointment as Captain was first obtained by Otis and now he has got him as Chief Qr. Mr. of this Corps.

And dear to the four will mule of my captured to the form a Kebel Capland and Confiscated from a Kebel Drewspoke Briding Office - The Allers Fort. The wan glad enough to get back To bur old goup and Valley gesterry -Groups morded by way of the bone bud ove a portion of the nove of Look. that mountain - in Coming from Stattenooga hen - The night before we Horis Hatin on the Knowille Thattonooga K. K. and the right and day before that were of bleveand - Thence I rent a letter to you adding a brief . S. in penal the mome this it left. now I shall tothe pleasure In answering the how letter, from you which bol. Herow Hages brought me then. thus agreeably celebrating the Thent of his first forming the Coops. In the first mail mice leaving the such of mission Ridge - when when the fight of Thermon in which one of was Brigars was sugared and no which Henry

Is add poor brove M' Aloon Jonusly of Lis Regt but at that time Commanding this Regt bad was mostelly wounded - solars day (Mulmerdry 25 nov.) we wer chand by muil - a letter from four hunder the He now. then leached me - troubled There he mail her heurhoper love one thee last Mendy of bleveland. nearly thour (3) weeks. Bendes the bref lette Lother nor 29 # 30 the steen you had head of the battle - You were right in supposing . Sofied purnelt of the Guenry" My letters is will have informed for how me even swangs If from our bone completely and thee Sucraped to supply the troops and to get is in as Comfortably clowert or Ever-The lich ness of the Country we tuters to the bear we started for the relief of Burnail. The morched without trains or rations, Theman's other brooks (from memphis) how. Ever had practised this mode of living Gud Som long to very had not a very Tip Not of discipline or to the medice got type of supplying thouselos with food. L'Any are good threver - land for goodie is

Le swe feared bur troops would mutate Them as the did in some instance, the but the deligent, and personniely the against all depredations - To air house the bollows as thouse the bollows as thouse the bollows from the best to Capture Cope Supplies from the Strenny - and what was of scarcely \$ Her infertoner we won huffend to head the morch - to our Commersions had a fair field and they proved ? Themselves unusually active and assidious The thought you would have get the good news before noon of thenkegiving day Perhops it was well that all felt mon like praying there praising." I did not feut ben Grout, Moral & The must have Divine heep - and Judging Renton from what others the have known heir intimately lay and from What I have seen found he does not put a high funce obout himself like some of ow Som hotot general, I can but think The is a God - peorting, lehnit - trusting many If not he is the grold mon I were so swould not be arm this condition remove. I shall be that he the son will agree with he the son while agree with he the the shall in the shall and so have



12/17/1863 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Brother [Rowland B. Howard]

ПОМА

CHH-128 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley Dec 17 1863

My dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

You will smile at my two story pink sheet [the letter is written on long pink paper]. It is some paper captured and confiscated from a Rebel newspaper Printing office - "The Athens Post". We were glad enough to get back to our old camp and valley yesterday. Troops marched by way of the base and over a portion of the nose of Lookout Mountain - in coming from Chattanooga here. The night before we were at Tyner's Station on the Knoxville & Chattanooga R.R. and the night and day before that were at Cleveland. Thence I sent a letter to you adding a brief P.S. in pencil the morning it left. Now I shall take pleasure in answering the two letters from you which Col. Hiram Hayes brought me there, thus agreeably celebrating the event of his first joining the Corps.

It was the first mail since leaving the north end of Mission Ridge - where when the fight of Sherman in which one of our Brigades was engaged and in which I lament to add poor brave McAloon (formerly of our staff but at that time commanding his Regt.) was mortally wounded. When darkness had closed the fighting that day (Wednesday 25th Nov.) we were chased by a mail. A letter from you mailed the 16th Nov then reached me. From that time no mail nor newspaper save one till last Monday at Cleveland nearly three (3) weeks. Besides the brief letter enclosing Everetts oration at Gettysburg another Nov 29th & 30th when you had them of the battle. You were right in supposing our "Trains would not follow in the rapid pursit of the enemy". My letters will have informed you how we even swung off from our base completely and still managed to supply our troops and to get on as comfortably almost as ever.

The richness of the country we entered when we started for the relief of Burnside is the secret of the facility with which we marched without trains or rations.

Sherman's other troops (from Memphis) however had practiced this mode of living and I am sorry to say had not a very high state of discipline as to the manner or time of supplying themselves with food. They are great thieves. And for a while we feared our troops would imitate them as they did in some instances but Otis diligently and perseveringly strove against all depredations. To aid him a kind Providence allowed us twice to capture large supplies from the Enemy, and what was of scarcely less importance we were suffered to lead the march - so our Commissary had a fair field and they proved themselves unusually active and assiduous in their efforts to get provisions.

We thought you would hardly get the good news before noon of Thanksgiving day. Perhaps it was well that "all felt more like praying than praising."

I did not put Gen. Grant's moral worth too high. So pure, so unselfish, so single-minded a man, it seems to me must have Divine help. And judging therefore from what others who have known him intimately say and from what I have seen (and he does not put a high fence about himself like some of our nabob generals) I can but think he is a God-fearing, Christ trusting man. If not he is the greatest man I ever saw and this is not to imply that he would not be were this condition removed. But I think you will agree with me in believing there is something superhuman in these traits of Character - in so successful and so honored a man.

The letter before me announces the death of Charles Dudly. How bad for his mother & sisters!

Farwell has sent a letter of Blaine's concerning Otis - published in the N.Y. Post - very flattering and kind and connecting him with the 11th Corps as it does, is calculated to do good and I may add is highly gratifying to us all.

Hayes begins well - was glad to bring us his own hands news from his brothers & family. Saw his wife

on his way here - in Indiana I believe. LeDuc falls back to Capt. And will undoubtedly always be a bitter enemy of the Gen'l. He is at Bridgeport.

Gen. Sherman has written Otis one of the warmest letters of commendation and friendly regards I ever saw from one General officer to another. And as Sherman is a rough plain spoken non-flattery man I feel highly delighted; and this with the respect & esteem with which I am confident he is held by Gens. Thomas and Grant compensates for the disappointment which I shared with you in reference to Meade's Report at Gettysburg. Otis always said Meade was jealous of him at <> as if such were the case. I am happy and I trust thankful that we are dealing with men now who are superior to petty jealousy and have motives higher even than self-aggrandizement.

Poor dear Ella working so hard! I wish she had some or one of these dozens of negro women who have followed us from East Tennessee and now neither know what to do nor do we know what to do with them. I did not tell you about eighteen (18) negroes whom I captured and confiscated from a Rebel who was trying to carry them off South and had already got some hundred miles on the route according to a statement I saw in a Rebel paper of the sale of a lot of negroes about that time. These "chattels" were worth on an average \$3,000 apiece. So I "bust up" \$54,000 worth of humanity for that Slave-driver. I sent them all to Chattanooga. It was while we were at Parker's Gap Georgia.

So glad that little David [Rowland & Ella's oldest child, David Patten Howard] remembers me - his "uncle Charley". All I can say is that I believe much prayer both the best remedy for the father's anxiety and the most effective means of securing God's blessing upon the father's efforts in training his little boy - without which blessing all effort will be vain. This may seem only the Commonest thought but it is one that does me good even to repeat. I liked the President's brief address at the Gettysburg Consecration - also the prayer.

Seward's short speech though egotistic has good sound doctrine and well put. You somewhat disgusted me about Everett's oration and besides I have had no time to read till today. So I have not yet finished it. I did have another copy which I gave to (a) Miss (of) Sweetwater. The account of the battles of Gen. Grant in the Gazette I sent you is full of errors. I wrote an acct which I will enclose and which I would like for Mother to see. I regard it as extremely plain and inornate.

Your last letter of Dec. 6th I found waiting us here. Otis & I enjoyed it much. The day it was written however when you supposed we "must be back about Chattanooga" we were at Knoxville. We were amused at your expression Meade's "faint". Don't despond! Old unconditional Grant has I trust been chosen of God and by the Divine blessing will sooner as like prove the downfall of this causeless yet inevitable Rebellion. You are probably correct in your estimate of the humility of our people. Can they ever learn it?

Late, Late. Affectionately C. H. Howard

The I've continuing the most comed Beadquarters Elebenth Corps, account of the bottles of bletteningtes Dockout Valley - Drc. 211 1863 I have two . newspotes had acon andobst in our observer - for know? con got no mails - Our now Lother I was sony to but leeges works admirth, buff, bross the new wide course and acquainty learn by a letter from Ella that Start former of 5th n. H. Frecently Sour health is no poor - and you of Gen. baldweld's Stoff 2nd of own letters some of them al-Today I have been leading roundlef Justing some letters for the, - lestering luded to the Same fact. If to him leaving - tilling much - sound your health is not good and Jums one latter, - sometimes about Muding maker it worse (as it were What we had been reading - westly ally does I am me it is better Oration of rettyping follows Meets Kepat any closely and gives less that you enspend owhele - Even credit to the their town of his one leavour. Orthofs of Son admins might denn - Tel of remained at home reading a is manily comed and some posts of it can good bough as Korstand little generally and thorning about-Jeys perhaps an ordinary beau timed with the diet and come mother hear wither the great part. Lid for we the Brager by flocketin and Could five for , you might got the Frenchity brief Which? WE have will and rugged by Efining and Divin Levere the oftenon. It is

but trigades bad no blackets - They Never your thetres with frish ago. left their upon the known is which You know I inspended agen offer leaving toollege and anony They teft believed in going into Bath and going right on after Bragg to Sung were find it necessary to lefully and hiddenly and There do the same - Herett first . Then huming to directly to the relief you can look to that my , sening money or anything for choon - but of Brunesed - they had no time without health our frie muchines to return for onething - bus men are unless and night as well be buffered grantly for their coming destroyed as to get out of luning bick from Knowwill - I will Indon the order - Gen. ther\_ voly". men wrote a letter to this, too I went my last to four pour personal to publish but Executing Wevelow - adding a but fastrought Complementing and grotifying to There. Two days often we reached he us bothe - I sent a copy to Morland old coup how - but thursday of -Did for see Blaine a lette from benevor - must day it be come told The Ov. Y. Evening Post - This was and for how might water her frozen also gratfying not only because tol-1/2 with thick in one with - file. unterely quie but because it com I have a cold - not been rid of nected him with his feefer- and he has always raid be wished to it man I went oway - but I have The a face with his Comment improving when it. How fortunat (in efutition) ish he never dering to That we got buch before this cinbe from white the foles gets no crest. Clement beother time Tome of

12/20/1863 From: C. H. Howard To: Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-129 Headquarters Eleventh

Corps

**Lookout Valley** 

Headquarters Eleventh Corps, [Letterhead] Lookout Valley - Dec. 20 1863

My dear Dellie, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I was sorry to learn by a letter from Ella that your health is so poor - and your own letters some of them alluded to the cause for it. If your health is not good and studying makes it worse (as it usually does) I am sure it is better that you suspend awhile - even one season. Perhaps if you remained at home reading a little generally and "choring" about with the diet and care mother could give you, you might get well and rugged by Spring and renew your studies with fresh vigor.

You know I suspended a year after leaving College and many young men find it necessary to do the same. Health first then you can look to studying, earning money or anything you choose - but without health our frail machines are useless and indeed might about as well be destroyed as to get out of "running order".

I sent my last to you from Cleveland - adding a brief Postcript there. Two days after we reached our old camp here - last Thursday afternoon. Next day it became cold and for two nights water has frozen  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick in our water-pail.

I have a cold - not been sick of it since I went away - but I am improving upon it. How fortunate that we got back before this inclement weather since some of our brigades had no blankets. They left these upon their knapsacks which they left behind in going into Battle and going right in after Bragg so rapidly and suddenly and thence running so directly to the relief of Burnside - they had not time to return for anything - and we suffered greatly for thus coming back from Knoxville. I will enclose Otis' order - Gen. Sherman wrote a letter to Otis, too personal to publish but exceedingly complimentary and gratifying to us both. I sent a copy to Rowland.

Did you see Blaine's from the N.Y. Evening Post. This was also gratifying not only because voluntarily given, but because it connected him with his Corps - and he has always said he wished to rise in face with his command (in reputation) and he never desires to be praised while the Corps gets no credit.

I will send you the N.Y. Herald of the 2nd containing the most correct account of the battles of Chattanooga I have seen. Newspapers had accumulated in our absence. You know we got no mails. Our new Qr Mr. Col. Hayes works admirably. Capt Cross the new aide was an old acquaintance formerly of 5th N.H. & recently of Gen. Caldwell's Staff 2nd Corps.

Today I have been reading some before writing some letters for Otis - listening to him reading - talking much - sometimes over letters - sometimes about what we had been reading - Everett's Oration at Gettysburg follows Meade's Report very closely and gives less credit to Otis than some of his admirers might desire. Yet it is mainly correct and some parts of it very good though as Rowland says perhaps an ordinary man could have written the great part.

Did you see the Praze by Flockton and the President's brief speech?

I was speaking of today. We had Divine Service this afternoon. It is now late and fully time I were in bed. Trusting the Lord will bless and will guide you as to duty. I will say Good Night.

Your loving brother C. H. Howard

P.S. I wish you a merry merry Christmas but this will reach you too late to help the matter, so, hurrah for New Year's! but I will write before.

The state of the s Land to the land on humied and I fear very unsolisted day letters - I keep my our Conscience Clas I by reasoning that if I waited for suitable offertuntes dways I would not write so frequently and that her Lope it is profesoble to have from letles often rother than have letter one, much more seldow. This oftenen I hope to have levien to file my long theet - a Confiscated that, by the way: I from the office of the Athens Fort a Rebel newspaper family fublished of Allers when are spent several pleases the Editio also and Otis is making the attempt to Ex Chang & true for our friend a. D. Richardson Correspondent of the holy Intune nor in Libber Fram Richmond if alive - Captured in Trying to sun frost Vickbury last Lummer. It is a doudy day and write pretaby tudin toin - His Inffor about I time for the lowing became, The an fort Is gotting ready for it - The sun on at ank I making the Eewel" a new log house.

They are also making & new Mess querlotten in boil. Heaves now so we have now try member - lectored people we. Cumuloted wand ofully in our lecent Compaign with lest Temessee and you of them has two chiedren) in the stervice of our mess - One is look the Sother - a girl of 16 or 17 - is wasters. In Meching of mess - I will summent the artides of food for dinner today (or for how luxurently we for - notwithstowing that the troops have only 3/4 rations -I (The men for a few days had one 1/2 Rotins of hord-bread. This is owing to the difficulty of troupertulin from Bridgefort min the boots on suplayed in corrying food rammentin to Knopville. Ou of the Cops of this army being the of there - and other face, will putably go up to assest in driving Long-Theet book to Virginia as (we hear) I be been insolantly made a host and refused to go further onless confelled y to do ron We women hat a ottended to y his core when it then the other day " of las had known of the kind of I empedance in the face of being driver

A Bout back again to the bod, gos 11 Cops and the denne - Otis tot of the sud - the head of the toble - I ment an the right - then leve Sleeves then It. " lilbrith - but he was obsent - having ? Opposit we Coft. Thisway then, light Fearens Roost Beef - Pototoes (fried) - Unions form - Coke (worm) Dried-offle souce - Butter ... " Pie with looffer, mille and huga included. Our Tuess- mon who is a remon ! spends the root of his truce ai soome country of ing over the foreging as we call it is getting ortides of food - be come in lote last night while both them one. I were taking on hupper and wore a. plots of fresh butter offered - Two bads I been distitute of the luxury for two or those meals - He generally her two it is that the Eurose's mess "on mess " hues no. 2" and mess no 3" at there Itd. ges.) - how it is that we live so high and without befringing when the short Lations of the soldiers. It is sofer for the " mess mon to forage now than it was When the Rebals infested our annestate. Julyborhood. I don't know as there is allely

Worther twenty miles of her. Otis her thought round a Leaves but thinks it best not to go war to Moret, a new bira is to be added to the looks and we an in hope, that fren. Hooke will be rest some where Else - It is boothsome to have my ted, gro, between as and the bepot ment I mean in the way of burness -Berids on Army Cope is complete Third poty giving orders and attending of Whree regulate ausselves. On hereth is good - Our Coesting healthy though many of the men get notes in our last reven Cowhage, they were many of their destitute of blantits of Money of Them had tents + blothing rother pour so Those wanting and bad .- ; rotions iniquents budly cooked on the head excustall; Mu change of clother and bendy time to be wash what they had for a mentle. The magnificent Lairs for the Louiton Com mission in the West will do mind goods 75,000 ven wind at Chicago! Those Thed letter, from buch therey and from Liggi Strictland - I lost a little memorandum book when I went down to Bridgefort before the hattle - and it contained that paper father fire is hored for me . Italing the condition of my money is account, to . I am romy to trouble father to smake another - But should like one giving of The state of my fenances of the End of the Sear.

Ashudy- 1/20.23° (1863) to for chart Many Christmes though not too lote for me to with it in my heat. a heffy! beffy! new few!" by you my mother - to follow gud all my friends who level this your the down of peace in our distractive Country! and may you ale so show Herven's protection and blessing or to supry that blissful time and aid in lending of to our Mercifie and Almighty tothe beaus of time Praise and thanksgiving. Otis sons he proposes to wit how tonight - a rethe ordinary likewise of our beloved President but

the oney Kind of resent I can procum out les in the field. Love bording of the from you loving ten C.H. Howard I coult it to my lest. gene this to new form this May the the dear of peace in a diterate ice to her them I hat and bleming in 6 Engire that bush a hour and and on her big it to com many a or eddenstyle total form of lower price and thentequing. Otis, son la hardon tout from Consept to Enter Entered of the following the work

12/22/1863 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-130 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley - Dec 22d 1863

My dear Mother

I often write you hurried and I fear very unsatisfactory letters. I keep my own conscience clear by reasoning that if I waited for suitable opportunities always I would not write so frequently and that perhaps it is preferable to have poor letters often rather than have better ones much more seldom.

This afternoon I hope to have leisure to fill my long sheet - a confiscated sheet, by the way, from the office of the "Athens Post" - a Rebel newspaper formerly published at Athens where we spent several pleasant days in East Tennessee. We captured the Editor also and Otis is making the attempt to exchange him for our friend A. D. Richardson Correspondent of the N.Y. Tribune now in Libbey Prison Richmond if alive - captured in trying to run past Vicksburg last Summer.

It is a cloudy day and will probably end in rain. It is I suppose about time for the rainy season. We are fast getting ready for it. The men are at work making "the General" a new log house. They are also making new mess quarters for our little family. We have taken in Col. Hayes now so we have now six members. Colored people accumulated wonderfully in our recent campaign into East Tennessee and we have two colored women (and one of them has two children) in the service of our mess. One is cook - the other - a girl of 16 or 17 - is waitress.

Speaking of mess - I will enumerate the articles of food for dinner today (as far as I remember) that you my know how luxuriantly we fare - notwithstanding the dryness of this Country and the fact that the troops have only 3/4 rations.

The men for a few days had only ½ rations of hard-bread. This is owing to the difficulty of transportation from Bridgeport since the boats are employed in carrying food & ammunition to Knoxville - one of the Corps of this army being still up there - and other forces will probably go up to assist in driving Longstreet back to Virginia as (we hear) he has insolently made a halt and refused to go further unless compelled to do so. We would have attended to his case when up there the other day if we had known of this kind of impudence in the face of being driven off out of Tennessee.

But back again to the Hd. qrs. 11th Corps and the dinner. Otis sat at the end - the head of the table. I next on the right, then Col. Hayes, then Lt. Gilbreth, but he was absent today having been sent to Chattanooga on business. Opposite me Capt. Stinson, then Capt. Pearson.

Roast Beef, Potatoes (fried), <onions>, Corn-cake (warm). Dried-apple sauce, Butter, Dried-apple Pie with Coffee, Milk and Sugar included.

Our Mess-man who is a German spends the most of his time in roaming over the country "foraging" as we call it - getting articles of food. He came in late last night while Capt Stinson and I were taking our supper and soon a plate of fresh butter appeared. We had been destitute of this luxury for two or three meals. He generally has two or three chickens tied to his saddle when he returns. So you observe how it is that "the General's mess" (or "Mess No. 1" as it is called in distinction from "Mess No. 2" and "Mess No. 3" at these Hd. qrs.) How it is that we live so high and without infringing upon the short rations of the soldiers. It is safer for our Mess-man to "forage" now than it was when the Rebels infested our immediate neighborhood. I don't know as there is a Rebel within twenty miles of here.

Otis has thought some of a Leave, but thinks it best not to go way at present. A new Divn is to be added to the Corps and we are in hopes that Gen. Hooker will be sent somewhere else. It is troublesome to have our Hd. qrs. between us and the Department. I mean in the way of business. Besides an Army Corps is complete in itself and it is irksome to have a third party giving orders and attending to matters which we could just as well request ourselves.

Our health is good. Our location healthy though many of the men got sick in our last seven campaigns. They were many of them destitute of blankets; none of them had Tents; Clothing rather poor; shoes wanting and bad; rations irregular & badly cooked - on the march so constantly.

No change of clothes and hardly time to wash what they had for a month.

The magnificent Fairs for the Sanitary Commission in the West will do much good - \$75,000 were raised at Chicago! I have had letters from Uncle Henry and from Lizzie Strickland. I lost a little memorandum book when I went down to Bridgeport before the battle - and it contained that paper father prepared for me - stating the Condition of my money accounts &c. I am sorry to trouble father to make another. But should like one giving the state of my finances at the End of the year.

Did you ever know any one besides me that could not tell when to bring a letter to an end?

I was sorry to hear Dellie's health is not good. I have written him upon the subject. He need not feel very discouraged I think since my health was poor for a while just after graduating but is now very sound and good. You and father are having cozy times alone at home. Hope you are not lonesome.

How thankful we have reason to be that the war is so far from our own sacred homes! How agonized I should be to believe an army either hostile or friendly were encamped near my father's farm or upon it and my unprotected mother were exposed to all the trials incident to the presence of an Army. To say every article of comfort which has been added to the commissaries stock in the course of years would all, likely, vanish in a day and night. But the Lord is plenteous in mercy & goodness toward us and ours.

Your Very Affectionate Son C. H. Howard

Wednesday Dec 23 (1863)

P.S. Too late for me to talk to you about "Merry Christmas" though not too late for me to wish it in my heart.

I will skip to New Years "A happy! Happy! New Year!" to you my mother - to father and all my friends who read this. May this year see the dawn of peace in our distracted Country! And may you all so share Heaven's protection and blessing as to enjoy that blissful time and aid in sending up to our Merciful and Almighty Father pleas of true praise and thanksgiving.

Otis says he proposes to write you tonight - accept the enclosed New Year's gift - a rather ordinary likeness of our beloved President - but the only kind of Present I can procure out here in the field.

Love to Dellie & Father From your loving Son C. H. Howard

Lookent Valley - Dr. C. 31 1863. 3 Aly dear mother I would like to trouveribe my Exact feelings and circumstances tomptt - for they are cellythen In de that of four wine to there there accurately you Novell certainly be believed from all enterly in my Jaccount- and herr - for finding that I am actually Contented and in good Minit, and I might add the from of this and that our health is good - the I down itting in this tent by the some lette with Shine . He is writing to Lizzie - It is clowert with Singlet - the last day of let's - I there not attently to review in this letter my life during the souther Jeen new is near its close - It is too crowdish with momentous Events - Dan por ago I vos in our lout of 2nd bir 2 2nd forps hear telementh Va - Maj: Whettlery Was with us - bountines, I few we do not love God find think of there Is now the Time we have come to this loops - but I hope it is not so - bud certainly the has manifested His goodness no less doudently to us Times we have been bere. I Chave this paper to course I have been writing I when it gente therity are day and I wisher to the I fan that I have just completed twenty vix pages of this kind - a kind of recreation - a thetot of this If life which I have brekend for publication in ac-

Whom acquentence I formed here be cently. If the Metet is published Iwill build four a copy. Jan wice not be surprised if very hand witing there mades of weariners of fungers - or of my fingers make North indicative of weariness or indeed of my weariness of fugers make illegible marks, But Jought to be hom union on the old year is degring - Otis bus said Need me a sucre moralizing thrain from his letter to Lizzie - but the be make, the old year only going of to other parts bulenown - feeles of how or having his hot on - tick in hand I think and Four ture he ength to here mid over- coat on for hundy the pold men will prove a without one tought. It has been rowing bord all day - but this evening has grown cold and probably it will be clear to-Point and perhops get a protune tother if the burds. lytest thee unais at there in his Eysie - Monedat San Whe mich a troppy from Lookout better then a free of those or Louvel boot mach on I put Man? I will look for some men mushed bullets from the buttle-ground upon the sides of the Incontino, of I go up - for several days - perhaps a week-There flow no ridry and I fear my beseth will Tuffer of I continue to playmosely madrie - Expensely if I set so much - By the way it may interest you

as it is no small thratter of Congretatation with as that a new autollment of provision, for our mess orwied from noshville today- the first truce our return from Miexville - ME will have a groud roppe tomeron the years -Otes shows me his writing - it looks remerleably willthe lufrours - the looks of his witet there winds, of Twilve - I just heard loft Thurson very Contiiled some thing about soon - It would be a wonder of we bear donce more here for their years turning - It-is Eved Enough for it - WE do not ful much like hestering to bed to ollow on fires to go out to-Sught - Smust not smit to wenter that the has a fine large new log colin - once toda, for It 3 time a Chimney was conflicted in el and to our belowse retisfaction (and gove may accredit some of my publicant thint, to the fact) this Chimney does not smake! that is to tay the make all goe, who thinney and a first vote droft makes a glerving not to my a glowing fine in the broad those fin-place. I suppose the old fear 1864 her gove-through be did not whereaft her to lay forwarde - Perhaps he thought it would make the fact to have a formal parting and that I was better for me to keep thereful.

Just now some members of the stoff who have been to intemperate as to lit up to this late - no they care show began to Most the reproin of boppy New year" - The General" lote it of oud not war Comfullist to terre my letter and go to the dear to have my vay in the motter - and one or two of there loving how will be heppy if my sorty with has ony Luckout belong from 1st 1864 - 12/4 a.m. John sen ago doit the the town lestenen & Jack Cinner Sunsice from a clas 64 th n. y. Mouel which some to Sermed It have follis) in our over Court former. - have known in Court ven Alexandra Va. Refert of recent gent of bottle, re - this two saiden in keeping rose confined to Hade gen. This delies to strink of which of which there there I will be in the house of Loskout. Then recent no immediat prospect of towners though on wice not probably with the thing. women me to close - I bu song not to get men letter, from for - the from the door verys illeaine her love to us" the last wished the lenterel (book fellow), who walks his fort a dark how hour, at a time - a bothy new few "this toribus to you wither, a beffy new gear - and for and the

12/31/1863 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-162 Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley Tenn

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps Lookout Valley - Dec. 31 1863 11 ½ P.M.

My dear Mother

I would like to transcribe for you my exact feelings and circumstances tonight - for they are altogether such that if you were to know them accurately you would certainly be relieved from all anxiety on my account - and more - for finding that I am actually contented and in good spirits and I might add the same of Otis and that our health is good - this goodness of God will I trust make you happy.

I am sitting in Otis' tent by the same table with him. He is writing to Lizzie. It is almost midnight - the last day of 1863. I shall not attempt to review in this letter my life during the eventful year now so near its close. It is too crowded with momentous events. One year ago I was in our Camp of 2nd Divn 2nd Corps near Falmouth Va - Maj. Whittlesey was with us. Sometimes I fear we do not love God and think of Him so much now since we have come to this Corps - but I hope it is not so - And certainly He has manifested His goodness no less abundantly to us since we have been here.

I chose this paper because I have been writing upon it quite steadily all day and I wished to tell you that I have just completed twenty six pages of this kind - a kind of recreation - a sketch of Otis' life which I have prepared for publication in accordance with the solicitation of a young man - an artist whose acquaintance I formed here recently. If the sketch is published I will send you a copy.

You will not be surprised if my handwriting shows marks of weariness of fingers - or if my fingers make marks indicative of weariness or indeed of my weariness of fingers make illegible marks. But I ought to be more serious as the old year is dying.

Otis has just read me a more moralizing strain from his letter to Lizzie - but still he makes the old year only going off to other parts unknown - speaks of him as having his hat on - stick in hand I think and I am sure he ought to have said over-coat on for surely the old man will freeze without one tonight.

It has been raining hard all day - but this evening has grown cold and probably it will be clear tomorrow. If it is I think I will visit Lookout Point and perhaps get a picture taken if the ambrotypist still remains up there in his Eyrie. Wouldn't you like such a trophy from Lookout better than a piece of stone or Laurel root such as I sent Ella?

I will look for some more smashed bullets from the battle-ground upon the sides of the mountain, if I go up. For several days - perhaps a week - I have done no riding and I fear my health will suffer if I continue so physically inactive - especially if I eat so much. By the way it may interest you as it is no small matter of congratulation with us that a new installment of provisions for our mess arrived from Nashville today - the first since our return from Knoxville. We will have a grand supper tomorrow - New Years.

Otis shows me his writing - it looks remarkably well. He improves. He looks at his watch - "three minutes of twelve" - I just heard Capt Stinson say (outside) something about snow. It would be a wonder if we have some snow here for New Years morning. It is cold enough for it. We do not feel much like hastening to bed to allow our fires to go out tonight. I must not omit to mention that Otis has a fine large new log cabin - and today for the 3d time a Chimney was completed in it and to our intense satisfaction (and you may accredit some of my jubilent spirits to the fact) this chimney does not smoke! That is to say the smoke all goes up chimney and a first rate draft makes a glowing not to say a glorious fire in the broad stone fire-place.

I suppose the old year 1863 has gone - strange he did not interrupt me to say farewell. Perhaps he thought it would make me sad to have a formal parting and that it was better for me to keep cheerful.

Just now some members of the Staff who have been so intemperate as to sit up to this late - no this Early hour began to start the refrain of "Happy New Year". "The General" took it up and so I was compelled to leave my letter and go to the door to have my say in the matter - and one or two of these young men will be happy if my Early wish has any potency. Well, then, I must redate my letter.

Lookout Valley - Jan. 1st 1864 - 12 1/4 A.M.

Two years ago about this minute I was listening to delicious music from our old 64th N.Y. Band which came to serenade "the General" (Otis) in our old Camp California - Gen. Sumner's Corps near Alexandria Va.

I have been assisting Otis in making out his Report of recent operations - battles, &c - this has aided in keeping me confined to Hd. qrs.

We think of wanting Uncle Henry Strickland [husband of Mary Jane Otis, the sister of Charles' mother] to come and make us a visit. I will enclose some Laurel leaves from the summit of Lookout.

There seems no immediate prospect of movements though we will not probably wait till Spring. Otis has ended (just now) his letter and my space warns me to close. I am sorry not to get more letters from you. Otis from the door says "Maine has come to us." He just wished the Sentinel (poor fellow) who walks his post a dark two hours at a time - a "happy new year". Otis wishes "You, Mother, a happy new year, ditto to father, and for me to tell you that he is going to do better this year. Did you get his long letter written a few evenings since?

Love and the happiest of New Years to you & father and to Dellie from Your Affectionate Son C. H. Howard

P.S. I found the pocket book lost at Bridgeport - and father's memorandum.

P.S. New Year's Morning 9 ½ A.M. It is the coldest morning we have had - just enough snow for a frosting of the surfaces. Ink frozen. But we slept tolerably comfortable with robes & blankets. All well. C.H.H.