

any letter which I wrote at so
often with me for months and one
did not get on I made it long with
to go to Chattanooga from
at Kingsville?

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 Lookout).

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 the} ~~of~~ ^{house} in which you writing.

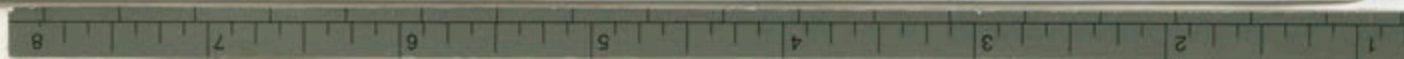
The door of his cabin is still preserved, being upon one
of the out-buildings here. Louis Rosse ^{and his brother's} finally con-
tracted for the removal of the Cherokees at 20 cents
per head and the troops only assisted in hunting them
up and guarding their transportation. Some families still

remain in the mountains out East of here ^{and considerably many on in the hills}. Some of these
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 - crossed to the left, to
capture a Yankee picket has ~~possibly~~ ^{undoubtedly} Indian blood.

as you might well suppose.

It is raining today and this morning 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 winter trappings 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 partening without power



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 cam-
paign - Tomorrow we will probably move on towards
Chattanooga ^{by Cleveland} - taking three days to reach an old
Camp - This time passing round or over the nose of
the awe-inspiring Lookout, ^{that} which we so long looked
upon almost with dread - a much nearer route to
Lookout Valley than across the two pentons 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 dash at Bragg's Army (now com-
manded by Hardee) 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
perilous 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. Gibson but know not when his 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
heavily upon them to keep up a respectable appearance - I find, however,
that I cannot (unluckily) use them either for stockings, drawers, or ^{under-shirts}
as I have written to Mr. G. you better not furnish anything from this to

12/13/1863

From: C. H. Howard

To: Rodelphus Gilmore

CHH-132

Hd. qrs 11th Corps
Charleston (on the
Hiwassee) Tenn.

Hd. qrs 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 is 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?

ago and I now hear them in a distant quarter giving
bad dreams to Miss Seccessia 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 Mounts started to
carry their cargoes to London 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 one 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 "lick-
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 ~~horrible~~
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 Virginia"
too but for the incredible 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 Lomb's clothing
resided and of whom I wrote you a full account ⁱⁿ
~~of~~ ^{a previous letter} - Nevertheless when this cruel war is
over and I am on my happy way round calling
upon all my immeasurable friends, acquaintances and
sweethearts ^{gathered while campaigning} and am passing up this delightful valley
via Cleveland - Charleston - Athens - Sweetwater - Philadel-
phia - London - Union 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 (com-
posed 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 ~~for~~ but the co-
ounding announcement made by our mess-men to-
night that it was all gone from our larder (Aunt's larder).
We have taken most of our needs 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
one 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 Dillic's plains near
the borders of Georgia and in the mountains.
We have heard that Breckinridge is coming
this way with a large army to meet us - but
do not credit it. Rebel Cavalry were here (attacking
P. M. just before our advance reached here. Today
one of our Brigades arrived at Lebanon ^(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 great timber would not burn and the Rebels failed to destroy the bridge so 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 Ho iwassee which is quite a river - navigable by small boats to Charleston. Wouldst you think it about time for us to have a change of clothing - going in 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 them (31 (extravagant!) pairs of ^(white) socks along and my "Wash." (black) by occasional washing has kept my pedal extremities clean & clad. As I wear these 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 real (as they have for some days since the blousing gave out) I make good account of the paper collars - and now I am seriously contemplating wearing things about my wrists and ankles - I shall not probably resort to this unless I am sent back on duty to 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 so killed when Longstreet first crossed the river at Loudon) which sustained the assault week ago Sunday.

Lt. Benjamin Jan 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 ^{will} covered to be harmed by the artillery firing - I saw him in that very ditch 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 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 <borrowed> from any house friends since the battle. Will you write?

Very affectionately
C. H. Howard

With much love to father
I will draw to a close -
Imagine us in a large
bed chamber - carpeted and
elegantly furnished - John
always has his camp-
cot but Capt. Stinson &
I design to sleep in beds

such as we find - We
brought along our robes
which we are obliged to make
use of in feather beds and
Coverlids and all such
things - When this cam-
paign 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 duty
your affectionate son
C. W. Howarth

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps
Athens - Macmin Co. Tenn.
Dec. 10, 1863

My dear Mother

I will have an opportu-
nity 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 33^d Mass Band. Gen.
Sherman is in town and has
been here (at Mr. Claign's) when
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
better here. Mr. Claign 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
men that Burnside moved
out in pursuit of Longstreet
after we left but with what
result we do not know. The
force under Fort. at Cum-
berland Gap moved also upon
Longstreet's flank and is said
to have a portion of the Rebel
Army in a tight place to
use a phreze. - I think we
will move down to Charlotte
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 to-
day - We have got some
leather here and are em-
ploying all the tools & shops
making shoes - We got
some put also from a
Rebel citizen and we
can always find plenty
of fresh beef & mutton.
I send with this a
letter to Nellie and
a long one to Ella -
This is "Seash" paper

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 phrase. 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

(4)

At Cleveland some few flags were flying - It is a neat and before the war was a flourishing village - with the corners of the triangle formed by Rail Roads - the one going to Chattanooga, the other to Dalton. We heard of a small force of the Confederates but hoped to prevent their 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, overburning two of the high trestles, and the station they had partially destroyed, ^{cutting it loose and} bringing 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. O'Neal Smith had a portion of his brigade across by boats and ^{captured} the contents of the cars, giving flour enough for the Corps for three days - salt 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 ^{along part of} men from Smith's Brigade were at once set at work under charge of a member of the Corps staff and before day-light were

Hd. qrs. 11th Army Corps
 Charleston - (on the Hiwassee River) Tenn.
 Dec. 13th 1863

Mr. Culman

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 mail-route - 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 Cincinnati). 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.

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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} plain between Georgia and Tennessee and half way between Cleveland 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 had 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 crowded 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 left column - Davis' ^{Div.} also moving in conjunction with his Corps. Before sunset we reached Cleveland having made twenty miles - Hearing a few Rebel Col^{rs} 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 ^{all along the road} ~~people~~ ^{seemingly} gratified at a sight of the Yankees or ^{is} the habit of the country to denounce the Federal forces. Secret stops suddenly within doors, scolding through the windows or not desiring to look out at all.

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 stores & shops, wearing in front of some
of the finest houses 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 them as well as for the cattle, forage and
other necessaries taken - If Rebels, never a cent.

At Sweetwater our column halted a 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. Gen.
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(6)
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 when a piece of artillery opened and they came to a sudden stand still - Commanded and all - A Regiment or two were dismounted and skirmished a little and word was sent to the Genl of the state of things - Darkness came on and the Cavalry was still manoeuvring and had not yet 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 forward but nothing was accomplished except the demonstration that the Cavalry Commander was unfit for the business he had undertaken to say the least - Genl. Vaughn succeeded in destroying 42 cars, 3 locomotives and any amount of stores of all kinds - ^{some} clothing - Great quantities of ammunition were destroyed - But at daylight next morning when the 11th Corps reached the place they found again Confederate flour & meat enough for several days - some hard-bread and other valuable Commissary stores. Troops were immediately sent across the Peninsula 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.

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

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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. <Volland> 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.

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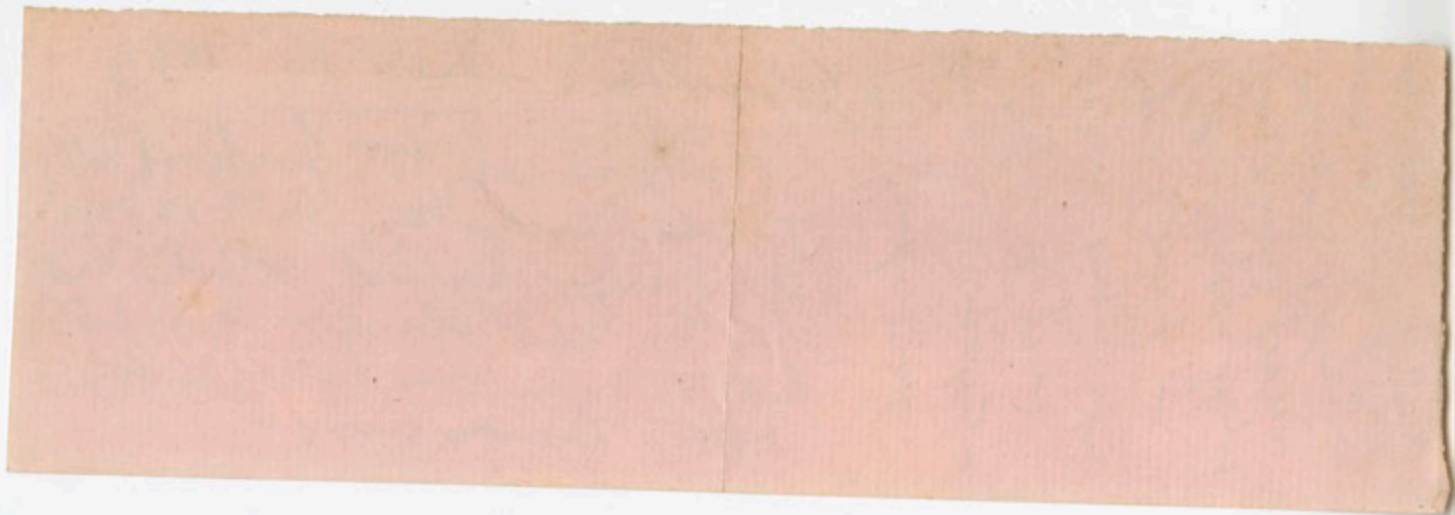
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Cleveland - Dec 16 1863

On our way to Loudon Valley
& will reach there in two days
if Hordge does not attack us
in the left flank - Got two
letters from you here - written
after Thanks giving -

The first mail
for 3 weeks -
starts to give
some news ab-
out Camp -
Col. Minton keeps
his mind from
any of - Home
is our best prospect
as well - G. W. D.



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.

Daily Express 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 pontons 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 nearly captured by the ad-
vances 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

a small command and a dett under Gen. Grant's order
entirely but the Rebels profanely seem to assault with
his famous drags. He says he has the
credit in some of
telling Sherman that
which was done by Gen.
Thomas - But it is not
little what individuals
get the credit or that
are done by the
I cannot say
with the Rebels, however,
a number of the
men who
order and
the execution of
the Rebels
of men
who had
in Sherman's
now
of the
obtained by Otis and
of the
without shoes - a hard march the
last day or two - We made two
days from Cleveland - There
we lived like princes - The
this) Capt. Sturison & I at the
house of Mr. Croignils who
worthy and a staunch Union
his wife is a very respectable
daughter, family lady of about
a good friend. Right before last
we stayed at the house of
at minister at Tynes's Station

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 Grotcher had had every thing swept from him - chiefly by our U. S. Union Soldiers - The Rebels had taken his provisions - poultry, potatoes corn &c. but the Federals took the blankets & coverlets from his beds. 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. My men arrived

entirely from the country and from what we captured of the Rebels while gone - for three weeks - I think I had a great very good 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 come out so well. I also found waiting me three letters - very great treat - one ^{from} Rowland - one from Siggie Strickland of Chicago - (taking French lessons) and one from Miss Fannie Grey - This had a dozen or more - one late one from Siggie saying Probelle was with her or would be in a day or two. We got some letters at Cleveland and then first saw some newspapers - But we found some ^{news} of the latter waiting us since the Cincinnati

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 comes
on all along in health & prosperity and
never tarry. Everything else allows us to
be useful - ^(i.e.) do something for His Kingdom -

Your ever affectionate Son
C. Howard

Col. Hayes reached us at Clevel-
land having come from the old
2nd Div. 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
Griffith's place has also just joined us

col. Bullach says he sent the letter
containing my \$100 - soon after he heard
the result of the battle - We are all
very happy for the prospect had has
vouchsafed to our cause - I hope our
motion 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
very a little wiser and show that your heart
is considerably filled with anxiety -
Went you lay all burdens 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 stripped 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 suddenness 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.

I am happy and thankful that we are dealing with men higher in rank than self - eg. Major Eller Post Major Eller working to hard! I wish the had some of these dozens of negro women who have followed us from East Tennessee and now neither know what to do with them of which not tell you in detail but by the way of the 18 regt of them I captured and of the 18 regt from at the time of the 18 regt was working to bring them off the road and had already got some hundred miles on the route across

two-story pink sheet. 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 group and valley yesterday - Troops marched by way of the base and over a portion of the nose of Look-out Mountain - in coming from Chattanooga here - The night before we were at Tynes'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. Horace Hoyes brought me then - thus appropriately celebrating the cent of his first joining the Corps. It was the first mail since leaving the ^{mouth} end of Mission Ridge - where when the fight of Sherman in which one of our Brigades was engaged and in which Hoyes

12/17/1863

From: C. H. Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B. Howard]

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

I will send you the copy of the book of the 2nd containing the most correct account of the battle of Chatterbox. I have seen. Newspapers had occasioned in our absence - You know we got no mails - Our new Lt. Col. Seeger looks 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 somewhat writing some letters for Otis - listening to him reading - talking much - some times 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 greater part.

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Did you see the Prayer by Hookston and the President's brief speech? I was speaking of today - We had Divine service this afternoon. It is

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Lookout Valley - Dec. 20 1863

My dear Belle

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 same fact. 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 another could give you, you might get well and rugged by Spring and

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Renew your studies with fresh vigor.

You know I suspended all 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 any thing you choose - but without health our frail machines are useless and, ^{indeed} ^{about} ^{sight} or will be destroyed, as to get out of "running order".

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

I have a cold - not been rid 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 them upon their knapsacks, and they left behind in going into Both and going right on after Bragg's rapidly and suddenly and thus burning so directly to the relief of Burnside - they had no time to return for anything - Our men suffered greatly for their coming back from Knoxville - I will inclose 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 Howland -

Did you see Blaine's letter from the N. Y. Evening Post - This was also gratifying not only because voluntarily given but because it commended him with his papers - and he has always said he wished to retire in full with his command (in reputation) Col. he never desires to be praised while the papers get no credit.

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 Postscript 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.

Wanted to believe an Army either Koster or friend
are successful men my

They are also making a new mess-
quar-
ters for our little family. We have
lotten in total. Hayes now so we have
now six members - Colored people ac-
cumulated 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.

Checking of mess - I will summarize the
articles of food for dinner today (as far
as I remember, that you may know
how luxuriously 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 $1/2$
rations of hard-bread. This is owing
to the difficulty of transportation from
Bridgport 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 prob-
ably go up to assist in driving Long-
street 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

to all the brig-
ade's form or upon it and my unprotected mother was exposed

off out of Tennessee.

Print back again to the 100, gr.

11th Corps and the dinner. It is set
at the end - the head of the table - I sat
on the right - then Col. Steves, then Lt.
Lilbroth - but he was absent ^{today} - having
been sent to Chattanooga on business.
Opposite me Capt. Thurson, then, Capt. Peerson.

Roast Beef - Potatoes (fried) - Union
corn - Coke (warm)
Dried - Apple sauce - Butter -
" " Pie with coffee, milk
and sugar included.

Our mess-man who is a German
spends the most of his time in roving
over the ^{country} "foraging" as we call it - i.e.
getting articles of food - He came in
late last night while Capt Thurson 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. As you see 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 the
100, gr.) - how it is that we live so
high and without infringing upon the privi-
leges of the soldiers. It is safer for
mess-men to "forage" now than it was
when the Rebels infested our immediate
neighborhood. I don't know as there is Rebel

father's form as upon it and my unfortunated mother was exposed to all the trials

Company which for every day of our lives the presence of our

Wednesday - Dec. 23^d (1863)

J. J.

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 Year.
"O happy! happy! New Year!"
to you my mother - to father
and all my friends who read
this. May ^{this year} ~~not~~ see the dawn
of peace in our distressed
Country! And may you
all so soon Heaven's protection
and blessing as to enjoy that
blissful time and aid in
sending up to our Merciful and
Almighty Father years 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 Dr. & Mother -
from your loving Son

C. H. Howard

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 1/2 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

1863
New York
1862/7
11/3
Hedges. 11th Corps
Lookout Valley - Dec. 31 1862
11 1/2 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 grace of Obedience and that our health is good - the goodness of God will I trust make you happy.

I am sitting in Obedience tent by the same table with him - He is writing to Lizzie - It is almost midnight - the last day of 1862 - 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 tent of 2nd Div^{ion} 2nd Corps near Falmouth Va - Maj. Whittelsey 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 - God certainly 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 Obedience's life which I have prepared for publication in accordance with the solicitation of a young man - enlisted

This long letter written of penmanship since - Look and the highest of your affectionate son
L. W. Howard
New York
1862/7
11/3

whom acquaintance I formed here recently. If the
sketch is published I will send you a copy.
You will not be surprised if my hand writing shows
marks of weariness of fingers - or if my fingers make
marks indicative of weariness or indeed if 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 thought.

It has been raining hard all day - but this evening
has grown cold and probably it will be clear to-
morrow - If it is I think I will visit Lookout
Point and perhaps get a picture taken if the Curbs-
bytest still remains up there in his Eye - Wouldn't
you like such a trophy from Lookout better than
a piece of stone or Laurel-root such as I sent Ella²

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 good roffe tomorrow - New Years -
Otis shows me his writing - it looks remarkably well-
he improves - He looks at his watch - "these minutes of
twelve" - I just heard Capt Gibson say (outside) some-
thing 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
resting to bed to allow our fires to go out to-
night - I must not omit to mention that Otis
has a fine large new log cabin - and today for
the 3^d time a chimney was completed in it
and to our intense satisfaction (and you may
accredit some of my jubilant 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 net to say a glorious fire
in the broad stone fire-place.

I suppose the old year 1864 has gone - though
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.

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 jubilant 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 1/2 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.