Great and Army Corps, Department of the cumberland. (4) your first to whip kafeld said, "weit , El is we what amen of all this being thering "Shefor in more" - It will not do to weeken The bente put now. or perhaps to tried Il will not do to him from botherd the works mui Souther this artilley fining is one. We will ex-They down brother . from our Columns to the Enemy's Phele, and I have the leise to wit today Smoot of them I go over in Eler of the truste. Vand it is four him to have a letter. Lungth a Wigot a Mobel attento peper of day lepon Long were to Rowland day before gesterding. Jesterty - last surving . They late considerable love Twice our unsuccessful assaults on the fort from our disconfiture of last Menday tour 27 Welt. (fast Monday) we have done no heary loss in Comporten with their con. But Lighting. Are trying to get up supplies for a it is but a druf in the bucket ourpoint att new start. You will have seen that the Khall Grouts losses were mice he Crossed forme, Rive. Raiding parties in our lear Succeed in Ou los was probably not more Then 3,500 in Cutting an Communications pretty often but the whole orney - but him we thister The thus for we have nut in few much delay Charpeys - Gunning of the whole It losse, have or inconvenience from this and additioned Vous lage - hetween 5 + 6 thereand - Jes - undury trops how come forward on the lane of The other day (2") more thou bood in this the K.K. Letely which will linder it putty Coops alone - Imppose don't the same in the sige. I wonder if I have written som from 20 but much less in the others. One Konfirements Jesteste, Ivas out with Otis Exercising they our present Ad. grs. at the house of a Mr. Gues who had bled South. The

house a muserable lettle old wooden office 19 I have there is an open field between the Nowwer for teloties - But the guil is pleasant What withen tront to goods of the Kelve Works - at and points we have butteres Worth that tree of different Kind, ook It generally no Mirmish hime in I breats, cherry, mulberry to time thrubby I tellemen have here had one tents are tutoling I whent as we can leadily fine across from I work to work with mustating. When I so with lette respect to the lay of the garden. The ground Wife, to the Good in jovel of from her. Thomas that Safeld on, a little and there of tent, thent-fere, Mis have now is spressed by the towner, on the is trave left on SI hos tents on of which there the home to vo-Il & apprehensive of Smething of the Kind . He then Cupy with the "une of . The flies downy It for wisters a demonstration Cost night and the morning. to our artilly ofrence Is swill for pleasant weather but when it lains ine get wet from the rown heating in at the I tell along - NE could bear the team from I had, and the ledis. It is very worm in 1 & Mc Pherman away begand (East) of Kenne-1 the zun - 2 corching - but we money to Keep Jesow. Here, a grand Commende - allow Sa good deal in the thade, In fact it is I am teste however as for as our look, was I all woods in this country, the exception I concerned. The some was der this women being a few therings a Clearings - for the I hig and the thinnishers began to fine and Warner it is very deficielt to get at the I much as if they the tested to advance - One I'm street formation of the Kelel line Snew in the seen by austraction get of a tre-If works. There is no front from which I gover Jan, cheer as they do when a Cherge I we get never than a gliniper of them and begun - Doubters "ge Robers" trembled on their that only in our or three process in our own has and sed formore - if he had intended detecting a part of his forces in

7/2/1864 *From:* C. H. Howard

**To:** Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

CHH-154 Headquarters Fourth

Army Corps,
Department of the
Cumberland
In the Field Near
Kennesaw Mt, Ga.

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps, [Letterhead]
Department of the Cumberland [Letterhead]
In the Field Near Kennesaw Mt, Ga., July 2nd 1864.

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I have the leisure to write today and it is your turn to have a letter. I wrote a long one to Rowland day before yesterday.

Since our unsuccessful assault on the 27th ult. (last Monday) we have done no fighting. Are trying to get up supplies for a new start. You will have seen that the Rebel Raiding parties in our rear succeed in cutting our communications pretty often but thus far we have not suffered much delay or inconvenience from this and additional troops have come forward on the lines of the R.R. lately which will render it pretty safe.

I wonder if I have written you from our present Hd. Qrs. At the house of a Mr. Guess who had fled South. The house, a miserable little old wooden affair we use for kitchens. But the yard is pleasant with shade trees of different kinds: oak, locust, cherry, mulberry &c. Some shrubbery & flowers were here but our tents are pitched with little respect to the lay of the garden. The ground slopes to the road in front of our row of tents & tent-flies. We have now two tents one of which I have the honor to occupy with the General. The flies do very well for pleasant weather but when it rains we get wet from the rain beating in at the ends and on the sides. It is very warm in the sun - scorching - but we manage to keep a good deal in the shade.

In fact it is all woods in this country, the exception being a few openings or clearings. For these reasons it is very difficult to get at the exact formation & situation of the Rebel line of works. There is no point from which we get more than a glimpse of them and that only in one or two points at a time. In two or three places <[too faint]> our own line there is an open field between & we are within 4 or 500 yards of the Rebel works. At such points we have batteries & generally no skirmish line in front as we can readily fire across from work to work with musketry.

We heard from Gen. Thomas last evening that Scofield was a little pressed by the enemy on the extreme left or apprehensive of something of the kind. He therefore wished a demonstration last night and this morning so our artillery opened all along. We could hear the same from McPherson away beyond (East) of Kennesaw. It was a grand cannonade - all on our side however as far as our Corps was concerned. The same was done this morning and the skirmishers began to fire and make as if they intended to advance. Our men in the rear by instruction get up a tremendous cheer as they do when a charge begins. Doubtless "ye Rebels" trembled in their shoes and old Johnson, if he had intended detaching a part of his forces in our front to whip Scofield, said, "wait", "let us see what comes of all this firing & cheering before we move". "It will not do to weaken the center just now." or perhaps he said "It will not do to move from behind the works now until this artillery firing is over, we will expose our columns to the enemy's shells which (most of them) go over in rear of the works."

We got a Rebel Atlanta paper of day before yesterday last evening. They take considerable comfort from our discomfiture of last Monday & our heavy loss in comparison with their own. But it is but a drop in the bucket compared with Grant's losses ever since he crossed James River. Our loss was probably not more than 3,500 in the whole army, but since we started on the campaign - summing up the whole the losses have been large - between 5 & 6 thousand. Yes, including the other day (27th) more than 6000 in this Corps alone. I suppose about the same in the in the 20th but much less in the others. Our

Reinforcements have more than equalled our losses in the whole army.

Yesterday I was out with Otis examining the position

[missing 5th page]

but I hope you will write to me often. I have not rec'd a letter for some time from you. Two from Rowland since. Mother has not written in a great while. I hear that she works hard and is tired. I am sorry for this. Did you have a pleasant time at Leeds while your Cousins were there. Rowland mentioned them. Have they returned to Massachusetts? I would like to meet them. Rowland spoke as though father were not well. How is he? We are as comfortably situated as ever in a campaign. Our wounded are better cared for than they can possibly be in the army of the Potomac. In fact, with all the breaking of our long line of Communications we never have suffered for anything except that our horses were for a while on short allowance while we were near Dallas but that was before we secured the R.R. this side of the Etowah River & Alatoonah Mountains. It is said that there is no mountainous Country below the Chattahoochee and that there is no strong position for the Rebels except on that river till we get 9 miles below Atlanta. You will not get this till after 4th of July, if you get it at all. By that time I trust we will have [see 5th page margin].

the debels to wound in truly their fine worker and Department of the Cumberland. I tuis hide of the wee. 3 Miles Station States 10 \$ 1864 Trahed row of them is Suboth mining are are Smit of an Eight Bryes I they are not there there? & shrowing - bende, from el Frill an people have seen It. R. K. redy burning the steering - Meaning Tace's house where we have I will and will go now (the) had Adeque. Ever since we If he was thomas. leached the river July 5. ME con use Attanta The Rebels had a Cops on I from a high hile near heast I looks like a long City ! the ride the liver lent fut seems to be at the midely down the R. K. Souther, It a great forest. The mand is going but it is futly s Letting a penisula made Stouttful whether the wall ? some the quartett of access a head ai the bhattetuche. The mentles & Karding Maries

This morning we hear that I the tride away from them. . I despield has gove clove in they are gone. Our left bos & and bound a lodgment Jucen along the live which it's less than a rule from for the the tite the river here duidt, East but then 5 miles up. He lost only It leven, I remen South and 2 men in doing it I cop. the R.K. Keep, possellel. Tured der Course La Vene. They had a bid also now the R. K. tridy) sol officer. On of our bour ( Drenton's) has some up 15 mily to Koswell where they cut loose this and Francis & Coroling Effected get an over got to the task Je crossing gesterday. Me In leasen to prevent further Theren is up there by this destruction and to prevent them and there morrounds Heir removing the boats Here Isuppose Course the and we have mice got

7/10/1864 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

CHH-155 Headquarters Fourth

Army Corps,
Department of the

Cumberland

On the Chattahoochee,

Vinings Station,

[Georgia]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps, [Letterhead] Department of the Cumberland [Letterhead] On the Chattahoochee, Vinings Station, [Georgia] July 10, 1864.

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

This warm Sabbath morning we are at Pace's house where we have had Hd. Qrs. Ever since we reached the river July 5th. The Rebels had a Corps on this side of the river sent down the R.R. further, holding a peninsula made by a bend in the Chattahoochee. This morning we hear that they are gone. Our left has been along the river which is less than a mile from here directly east but there it turns & runs South and the R.R. keeps parallel till it reaches the bend (3 miles). The Rebels had a Pontoon bridge here (they had a bridge also near the R.R. bridge) and though they cut loose this end yet our men got to the bank in season to prevent further destruction and to prevent their removing the boats and we have since got the bridge away from them.

Scofield has gone above and secured a lodgement on the other side the river 5 miles up. He lost only 2 men in doing it & captured one cannon & a General officer. One of our Div'ns (Trenton's) has gone up 15 miles to Roswell where Garrard's Cavalry effected a crossing yesterday. McPherson is up there by this time and these movements have I suppose caused the Rebels to evacuate entirely their fine works on this side of the river. We had none of them in front of our Eight Brigade & they are not there this morning - besides from a hill our people have seen the R.R. bridge burning this morning.

We are well and will go now (Otis & I) to see Gen. Thomas. We can see Atlanta from a high hill near here. It looks like a large city but seems to be in the midst of a great forest. The mail is going but it is pretty doubtful whether this will run the gauntlet of all the Guerrillas & Raiding parties between here and Nashville (250 miles). We have had some mules captured and a few days since a young man our Mail Agent was on a train which was captured & burned and he had I suppose \$50 for Otis and \$250 for me which he had collected of the Paymaster at Chattanooga. I had ordered about \$225 sent home in checks, or rather \$250 brought down to pay my debts with and for immediate use and the remainder of 3 months pay to be sent to Father - Possibly he may escape and save the money. Col. Sherman our chief of staff was captured by the Rebels by getting out through a gap in the lines which he went to rectify. This since we have been here.

My loss of money does not compare with his misfortune. Please say little about my slight loss except to father & mother. I think we will soon be hugging close around Atlanta.

Affectionately C. H. Howard

day: - It is a charming night but Bead-Quarters 4th Army Corps.

Assistant inspector general's office.

Sugar Power's Gray, July 13, 1864 her been learth hot in the her today - In the foresoon I was riving Consorably getting theester a tweeter. Mis Fire I have her writing thead-Jil Jay dear brother It is about 10 ing newspopers. This Evening - just be for Doegen my letter I went out to a little Clear- running brook or brough "on They cree & great Theaceful for us. This has 4 in this country and took a bath in Just have down to they for the Company bith leaph. bulbrath - lower of the light. I am titting at my desk Not took a hoin in the blatteductor I mude a fine tree - cui trees about lotty to hope to homomon. - Theman ways he was word by Grant to dime Johnson It's widers in drawater are all charle across the Chattahovaker & now he I us. Do you wonder that we have has accomplished that he is leady 3 prople choose a fine grove for Ad. to go on too mon , Ar (Men. S.) is v. Ign. It is a pretty place - gut a feeling pretty well - We Expect good I price grassy corpet for the ful & news from another direction freth som, This is any unimal for this Com-Ont tis tred we when he went to Thy . Ne see little good green hood. bed that I aught not to til up that are for bround gesterding, but longht & of wice done with the thet. 34 Scopield's (23' John) had crossed Hope this will find (in better than Beton before and fort of M Thursi's When you wrote. I got your letter Sunday. lost. Did you go to Leeds for the 4 " I think Those written for how the celebrated, Sommand is a cross still further Suf at Roswell Factory, Did Combian We are 11 miles from Allanta, Harthe

about the Capture of the 400 gers Thereting in the factory. They were of their work oneking army doth, The factory was destroyed by Een. Kennow's order - property to the amount of mon than a million. The girls were sent in wayons to Marcetta and one being cent (north by Cars. But Thou who saw them lay they are not so sprice meat looking as our fading girls north. In fact that most of them were very party Clash and some borefooter. time last funday when we more of river to happent kafield we have not come in contact with any Kebels. Then on only a few Covely in our inmediate front or that we her no firing. Our John has not had 20

complete a rest nor been so Entrely

four from centered with the leaving

but once ma we left or rather

Struck Turnel Hill. That once was for a day or two of bossvill. The Suppose the Kelel army is going to wait for us in their intrendements pust this with of atlanta - hoobolly along the boule, of Jeach Tree Creek. Therman did not come t hurry Ofte getting their across the blata hoschee - two of an Dive Crossed Josterday and one today, One of was ( woods) will push down the river tomorrow aroming, drive away the meny from in frut of Jace's Fing (where we first struck the rive) and Thus enake way for the 14th forps to throw a bridge & cross - brokely the 20th of will cross of the Laure place. Our of our own Dwed Stanley's Crossed above at laquelo hip & mond down to come the cossing of the lemander of the Coops the building of the bude here at Power ting sestion

7/13/1864 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

CHH-156 Head-Quarters 4th

**Army Corps** 

Assistant Inspector General's Office On South Bank Chattahoochee Ga Near Power's Ferry

Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps [Letterhead] Assistant Inspector General's Office [Letterhead] On South Bank Chattahoochee Ga Near Power's Ferry, July 13, 1864

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is about 10 P.M. a moonlight night, strangely quiet & peaceful for us. Otis has just lain down to sleep for the night. I am sitting at my desk under a pine tree. Pine trees about six inches in diameter are all about us. Do you wonder that we Maine people choose a pine grove for Hd. Qrs. It is a pretty place - quite a nice grassy carpet for the feet & this is very unusual for this country. We see little good greensward.

Our Corps crossed yesterday. Part of Scofield's (23d Corps) had crossed above before and part of McPherson's Command, is across still further up at Roswell Factory. Did you hear about the capture of the 40 girls, operatives in the factory. They were at their work making Army Cloth. The factory was destroyed by Gen. Sherman's order - property to the amount of more than a million. The girls were sent in wagons to Marietta and are being sent North by cars. But those who saw them say they are not so spruce & neat looking as our factory girls North. In fact that most of them were very poorly clad and some barefooted.

Since last Sunday when we moved up river to support Scofield we have not come in contact with any Rebels. There are only a few Cavalry in our immediate front so that we hear no firing. Our Corps has not had so complete a rest nor been so entirely free from contact with the enemy but once since we left a rather struck Tunnel Hill. That once was for a day or two at Cassville. We suppose the Rebel Army is going to wait for us in their intrenchments just this side of Atlanta - probably along the banks of Peach Tree Creek. Sherman did not care to hurry after getting them across the Chattahoochee. Two of our Div'ns crossed yesterday and one today. One of ours (Wood's) will push down the river tomorrow morning, drive away the enemy from in front of Pace's Ferry (where we first struck the river) and thus make way for the 14th Corps to throw a bridge & cross. Probably the 20th Corps will cross at the same place. One of our own Div'ns (Stanley's) crossed above at Scofield's bridge & moved down to cover the crossing of the remainder of the Corps & the building of the bridge here at Power's Ferry yesterday.

It is a charming night, but has been terribly hot in the sun today. In the forenoon I was riding considerably getting Newton in position. This P.M. I have been writing & reading newspapers. This evening - just before I began my letter I went out to a little clear-running brook or "branch" as they call it in this country and took a bath in company with Capt. Gilbreth. Some of the staff took a swim in the Chattahoochee today & I hope to tomorrow. Sherman says he was ordered by Grant to drive Johnson across the Chattahoochee & now he has accomplished that - he is ready to go on & do more. He (Gen. S.) is feeling pretty well. We expect good news from another direction pretty soon.

But Otis told me when he went to bed that I ought not to sit up & write tonight & I will close with this sheet. Hope this will find you better than when you wrote. I got your letter Sunday last. Did you go to Leeds for the 4th? I think I have written you how we celebrated. We are 11 miles from Atlanta. Has the draft taken place yet? I do not believe you will be <holden>. The \$300 will not answer now I believe. Wood may have some fighting in the morning but the rest of us will rest another day.

Love to father & mother.

Affectionately, C. H. Howard

The supposed a very pleasant passage down factority & comment tile I see her boardy, Ose sure and have letters went me to Louisville Come of Coops. Meller Proprietor If the Golf House. I feel so ourious to bear from que vome that rometimes Jan unhappy - But I commend for " Our Acoverly Gather Thust De will I for the bout from Mosmphis - though an give for Ofuce 4 though for Every day. I commencely long one awing to being upon Ticksburg's built afor a high thuff on Is a small book with me inoxperiences or inffe twiens the fortification, this S. In. Men. Crant fulot. For the latter peason we had to lay at anchor nearly all right. I thouled I last Solutary nown and today is Wednesday. Dana Who is in Command is an old the first of lost evening we had a seven and acquaintances, howing been in the tell 2 nd I not whom the upper or humicine dock and tooks with as on the Toundale. He woned watched the banks or the guest water or the not relow me to the at the Hotel but Howing sky till both into the Evening whom we tranget ma reget to his Adeges. hen. anchoud for the suft. Larly gesterday morning & Dr. Buckness family (whom I think I men-Washburn alu was kind & had me tite Thined in my letter from loans) disimborked most of my needs with him. He s pat Eggs Dont - It was at their plantation. Dr. looks like as Much John Oh, and to When the the rown ay - son 45 or 50 - Thomas a franchet 1 03. owns there hix housened seres of fine land. I'd Coundered of Extremely fortunal that I hap. bux con, their from "Ot, for Threw they percel to got upon the same boat cowing down

from Mulphis. It was not es Corp and fine a tout as The Darling" which brought us from Lawnille. But Dr. 18 5 family were pleasant Company for me and of course as long together we got to be fish hot friends. They much On promin to come Tee there often the has I would went upon it now they tail bere it not that they flowed the municillas would catch me. I found before Sported from them that the ladie, (3 in the party) were all Lecest and they were, I think, resely musprise I find in a yankee and one too from away down in Maine so much of a gentlem on a, they were pleased to regard you hundle sevent. WE had no quanter firing no other very lewskell weedent coming down unless I mention a collision with a guilest which fright read the tadies terrelly I ditto most of the onen. Heres the fruit of our book and hild. Hong Chec Nelena & we were moving up towards The Wharf very slowly - I being a lettle before light. Iwas who and dressed as I had despatches to the Iffice Commonding of Heleva, Akans. We were moring slowly I the consul differe he agent the quebrat with force swough

to make guite a prosh in hoise and at but we proved a hole in our trule but it provid less serious and our book shood who under it manquely. (Same) of the Gunboat neosha" at the mouth of White Kiner. He total me most of his rela--times were in Georgia. WE had a little brouble owing to his that orders that our bout thehed make no landing until we reached Wicksburg - Wis was to prevent Contrations trate I I believe our little book needed witching too for de is truly of the dess called leathon there's and does not mine as to what not of supplies the hodes for Cotton nor whom the buys it or meanly and Could leave from Keeping my Eyes and Ears ofar during the trep. and see Clenc Comby - going by the first book of fourt will be a week or two get before I hall hear from gon. I have further despotches from Tene IV ashburnets hen levely't beside, Show not completed my business for this there there toti9/7/1864 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-157 Head Quarters District

of Vicksburg Vicksburg, Miss.

Head Quarters District of Vicksburg [Letterhead] Vicksburg, Miss. [Letterhead] Sept 7, 1864.

My dear Mother

I arrived here this morning having enjoyed a very pleasant passage down on the boat from Memphis, though an unusually long one owing to being upon a small boat with an inexperienced or inefficient pilot. For the latter reason we had to lay at anchor nearly every night. I started last Saturday noon and today is Wednesday.

The first of last evening we had a moon and I sat upon the upper or hurricane deck and watched the banks or the quiet water or the starry sky till late into the evening when we anchored for the night. Early yesterday morning Dr. Buckner's family (whom I think I mentioned in my letter from Cairo) disembarked at Eggs Point. It was at their plantation. Dr. B. owns there six thousand acres of fine land.

I considered it extremely fortunate that I happened to get upon the same boat with them coming down from Memphis. It was (the "R. E. Hill") not so large and fine a boat as the "Darling" which brought us from Louisville. But Dr. B's family were pleasant company for me and of course so long together we got to be first-rate friends. They made me promise to come & see them after the war & would insist upon it now they said, were it not that they feared the guerrillas would catch me. I found before I parted from them that the ladies (3 in the party) were all "Secesh" and they were, I think, really surprised to find in a "yankee" and one too from away down in Maine so much of a gentleman as they were pleased to regard your humble servant.

We had no guerrilla firing nor other very remarkable incident coming down unless I mention a collision with a gunboat which frightened the ladies terribly & ditto most of the men. It was the fault of our awkward pilot. It was near Helena & we were moving up towards the wharf very slowly - it being a little before light. I was up and dressed as I had dispatches to the officer commanding at Helena, Arkansas. We were moving slowly & the current drifted us against the gunboat with force enough to make quite a smash in noise and at first we feared a hole in our hull but it proved less serious and our boat stood up under it manfully.

I formed the acquaintance of Capt. Howard (Sam'I) of the Gunboat "Neosha" at the mouth of White River. He told me most of his relatives were in Georgia. We had a little trouble owing to his strict orders that our boat should make no landing until we reached Vicksburg. This was to prevent Contraband trade. I believe our little boat needed watching too for she is truly of the class called "Cotton thieves" and does not mind as to what sort of supplies she trades for Cotton nor of whom she buys it as nearly as I could learn from keeping my eyes and ears open during the trip.

I have decided to go to New Orleans and see Gen. Canby, going by the first boat. So I fear it will be a week or two yet before I shall hear from you. I have further despatches from Gen. Washburn & Gen. Canby & besides I have not completed my business for Otis & Gen. Sherman satisfactorily & cannot till I see Gen. Canby.

Be sure and have letters sent me to Louisville (care of Capt. Miller Proprietor of the Galt House.) I feel so anxious to hear from you & home that sometimes I am unhappy. But I commend you to Our Heavenly Father & trust He will give you Grace & strength for every day.

Vicksburg is built upon a high bluff on the river's bank. I am going to ride around & view the fortifications this P.M. Gen. Dana who is in command is an old acquaintance, having been in the old 2nd Corps with us on the Peninsula. He would not allow me to stay at the Hotel but brought me right to his Hd. qrs. Gen. Washburn also was kind & had me take most of my meals with him. He looks like as Uncle John Otis used to when of the same age - say 45 or 50. I have a nice room all by myself.

I am somewhat anxious to hear from Otis for I know they have been moving & probably have had a great battle before Atlanta since I left. It is about time for my ride. My health never better.

Your loving Son C. H. Howard

4:00 P.M.

P.S.

Capt. Norton has just arrived from Memphis & brings the news that Atlanta is captured. Hurrah for Gen. Sherman!

bollege mot leafl. Formyton on his Mily. My business is over I Twill Welling by the some boot that trought me down - though Iwoned have been glad to how had been to have to \_ manual lunger in this pleasant tity. I found another College met Maj. Joring of humidant & their to call for hu with a cornage to side but to John For chestroin this afternoon - I met Kowland's old Kent's three friend Home, Hood on the Meet boday and Culling him by home astronshed him greath, the Teamer much planed true me but I feer he has been a bad Skell-He has maintimed always that he is a Butite abject, he is now going " metinions, morice to go with business There. I susped There are money more ald freed here of Iruly knew how or where to find hen that the time to do so - Asping that this will find for write Winjuring and; blessing the Comfort of this love - I remain four offerhand to be the Stoward

Headquarters, Military Dir. of the West Mississippi,

New Orleans, Jeft 10 2005 I g They dear mother I writ for from Vickliburg and now I have a little leisure that I count better spend than in telling you hard Kindly Ison - whener the Thoms and blesses me. We had a frie large Hames from Wecksburg here - Hosted just ofter Sundown and were how night, and nearly troo days in making the pussey. Head Down two hours at totales - a heartiful city built upon the high bluffs - Thelieve the birds Alex bearing Vi cheburg - WE trok one night in jetting to nothis , I called on Sen. Bray-- mon who commands the Fost. Issue of the went thest front austocratio (in a mile saule) Justile of the touthe reside at Statches: Many of them have always been good union people. They key that is my acquouterclas by that some of the most refund & besiteful lethis of The World beside at natches but I had not the home to

make an inspection in that derection. my duties are stretty bullitary. When Mississippi has former sand-bors as we go down - becomes dut and broad and its books highly cultivitie ! Inthe last 80 miles the thous are lived with magnificul hugar plantations. There the large buch Henry hugon hull, an Every pleatohine and they acour as frequently as once in Every left or quarter of a mile - The housed are all trettil, located trurrounded with that tree, but do not reem to be so costly or slegant in structure as four might Extect from the human wrath of the orners. I found them, leavily as hospitable Haid as Grand Stone. He first morted me to die with him and there would that I should leave the It bhoshes Thoule I tota up my horn at his house. It is an Elegent wown - I Enjoyed the Hower both lost night - ofthe my long formering and the boats where we have no such luxury. His serverts are

attention to all my wants. Losson you I had a reveet sleep in as fine about as a men caned wish. The people here do not Think if leeping without Imagnite bors but with the armer gon Can pest secure - I found lots of pand of the army. My; un. Granger, who (an will remember formerly Commanded the trung leifs Iwas succeeded by Ote, - Come and gave me a rede lad Evening in a two home Comings of the must fruished make, the drove bein self Thoth me out upon the allebrated shell woods which on the best in the world Imppore - How much for would sugary reding whom them - so hard and level - yet without the horshness of most penements. WE will be humlight tell late wite the Evening - He was Eager to talk about our Comforge in Tangent The Officers of his old looks. - Majiken. Reynolds is also an old aggrantona. He The met me with much contillety. I think a

9/10/1864 *From:* C. H. Howard *To:* Mother

CHH-158 Headquarters, Military

Div. of the West Mississippi,

New Orleans, Louisiana

Headquarters, Military Div. of the West Mississippi, [Letterhead] New Orleans, [Letterhead] Sept 10th 1864

My dear Mother

I wrote you from Vicksburg and now I have a little leisure that I cannot better spend than in telling you how kindly Providence still spares and blesses me. We had a fine large steamer from Vicksburg here. Started just after sundown and were two nights and nearly two days in making the passage.

Spent some two hours at Natches, a beautiful city, built upon the high bluffs, I believe the first after leaving Vicksburg. We took one night in getting to Natches. I called on Gen. [Moses] Brayman who commands the Post. Some of the wealthiest & most aristocratic (in a mild sense) people of the South reside at Natches. Many of them have always been good Union people. They say, that is my acquaintances say, that some of the most refined & beautiful ladies of the World reside at Natches but I had not the time to make an inspection in that direction. My duties are strictly military.

The Mississippi has fewer sand-bars as we go down, becoming deep and broad and its banks highly cultivated. For the last 80 miles the shores are lined with magnificent sugar plantations. You see the large brick steam sugar mills on every plantation and they occur as frequently as once in every half or quarter of a mile. The houses are all prettily located and surrounded with shade trees but do not seem to be so costly or elegant in structure as you might expect from the immense wealth of the owners.

I found Gen. [Edward Richard Sprigg] Canby as hospitable & kind as Gen. Danse. He first wanted me to dine with him and then insisted that I should leave the St Charles Hotel & take up my room at his house. It is an elegant room. I enjoyed the shower bath last night - after my long journeying on the boats where we have no such luxury. His servants are attentive to all my wants. I assure you I had a sweet sleep in as fine a bed as a man could wish. The people here do not think of sleeping without mosquito bars but with this armor you can rest secure.

I found lots of friends of the Army. Maj. Gen. [Gordon] Granger, who you will remember formerly commanded the 4th Army Corps and was succeeded by Otis, came and gave me a ride last evening in a two horse carriage of the most finished make. He drove himself & took me out upon the celebrated shell roads which are the best in the world I suppose. How much you would enjoy riding upon them, so hard and level, yet without the harshness of most pavements. We rode by moonlight till late into the evening. He was eager to talk about our Campaign in Georgia & the officers of his old Corps.

Maj. Gen Reynolds is also an old acquaintance. He used to be Gen. Thomas' chief of staff. He met me with much cordiality. I found a College mate Capt. Farmington on his staff. My business is over & I will return by the same boat that brought me down, though I would have been glad to have had leisure to have remained longer in this pleasant city. I found another College mate Maj. Loring of Norridgewick & he is to call for me with a carriage to ride out to Lake Ponchartrain this afternoon.

I met Rowland's old Kent's Hill friend Thomas Hood on the street today and calling him by name astonished him greatly. He seemed much pleased to see me but I fear he has been a bad Rebel. He has maintained always that he is a British subject. He is now going to <Metanioras> Mexico to go into business there. I suspect there are many more old friends here if I only knew how or where to find them & had the time to do so.

Hoping that this will find you well and enjoying God's blessing & the Comfort of His love. I remain Your Affectionate Son

C. H. Howard

I suppor he dettles in the political Concerns therhops he may do some good in this way - the brooks nevett, belong to the often Anny Corps ( Ver. Reynolds) or have him Stolen from the Defital of the Finn. Sten bearly 14, becomen that they thate all he returned in due home - active operations are going on in the Kouses now I her Regnolds went of there Sestending or rather should for what Kines, leaft Leth Farnington is his adjutant travel now, You will remember him at Bondon & suffer -I find anxious to hear from four to know whether for a Rowland or both were drufted ?. I also and dreading to bear - for I can hardly Expect to hear that father is thee alive. I am in hopes tiget a leave of obsence now that attento is fallen but I don't know but that this will think I have had lever rough in this Excur-= Som - Especially as there are others of the Woff who derive a leaves of ot once - I three stop a My or is at Vichsburg & delto, Ithink, of Mem-Mich true portion, of the cit. Their evening leve Home-line of the faction - both of Morine - one long to take must visit all of the aniego - Mr. the Hond bless to Must you delived age your arms to the third bless to Must you sproffeeding to butter let the Arward of

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Headquarters, Military Dir. of the West Mississippi,

New Orleans, Sept. 11 1864.

My dear brother

I wrote to mother that I expected to leave this city lest Evening but the banky did not get the destrolches ready and besides the boat I was togo in the James White does not leave till tomorrow at 10 a.m. - There Joeen to Church today - the first time for many months - In two previous buildys, yes three, I have have transling. It was of the Mathetist Charch and I heard Brig , Sun, Tyle preach - their I think from Mustown - His Lermon was good Though nut specially buttent. I was glad to hear a sound religious descourse and I hope it will be me good. He dwelt upon the home youth and destroy of the Kingdom of our Lord. It is to grapple with wrong town Everywhere - in private and further - in towne life - I in the dolly politic.

The audience was small - Mr Secesh refuer to attend the linin Churches - Sverety is in an unemable state down here. Her Robels Deem dogged and unreconciled. But they are brite, under the Joke - subjugated. They hat to acknowledge it and we wante fain an a builder terme but they are so uncom-= promising that it count be otherwise as long as we accupy the city with our termy. Did you know that burn I South had one of Henry belay's abotetion sentences inscribed when the Hater of him Honoring in band Theel ? And an spokson's thather in another Ignore - Her Union, of must & thell be presented. I suppose they will drill out these hiscriptions over army leaves here. I wrote mother that I was stopping with here learly by his mortation. Fast Evening he lend me his fine home & buggy and I took It leve . Hourline 4.5. Colored Willey ( who was a non love. Office in 30 Maine when we first come ant I and me wide to lake Panchostram - chart 6 miles - the thee trads are very fine V I sujoned the ride

much, there is not much to be out there, But it is the drive for all who wish to take a hide and of trom - There is a Kind of leffer how and there - a Rooting galley to. On an way back we passed the duelling ground Where many a poor fellow has fallen a tration It pussion and a false sense of honor. It is a pretty spot shaded by live vales both how Coffee houses where The different herter, would meet - There is a Kind of letthe Whor house midway between the Offenhours Where the Second, would meet to arrange. There are some fine hours on Explanade It. E.g. that of Ridell and that of Blamegard-Orif there are bordly any to compare with the palatice resistances of new York of Sorton. The building metarine here is chief buter covod. no vice Thom - Bearing and had beginn a parameter grante building for the Custom. - house I'd is now used for the T. O. lent it was not completed. - Hen. Bouks is here & his wife is will to make her oppearance Demetures in all 4,000 dress but be the no control over any military matters now

9/11/1864 From: C. H. Howard To: Brother [Rodelphus

Gilmore]

CHH-159 Headquarters, Military

Div. of the West Mississippi New Orleans, La.

Headquarters, Military Div. of the West Mississippi [Letterhead] New Orleans, [Letterhead] Sept. 11 1864.

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I wrote to mother that I expected to leave this city last evening but Gen Canby did not get the dispatches ready and besides the boat I was to go in the "James White" does not leave till tomorrow at 10 a.m. I have been to Church today - the first time for many months. For two previous Sundays, yes three, I have been travelling. It was at the Methodist Church and I heard Brig. Gen. Pyle preach. He is I think from Missouri. His sermon was good though not specially brilliant. I was glad to hear a sound religious discourse and I hope it will do me good. He dwelt upon the power & worth and destiny of the Kingdom of our Lord. It is to grapple with wrong & sin everywhere - in private and public - in social life, & in the body politic.

The audience was small. The "secesh" refuse to attend the union churches. Society is in an unenviable state down here. The Rebels seem dogged and unreconciled. But they are truly under the yoke - subjugated. They hate to acknowledge it and we would fain use a milder term but they are so uncompromising that it cannot be otherwise as long as we occupy the city with our Army.

Did you know that Gen. Banks had one of Henry Clay's abolition sentences inscribed upon the statue of him standing in Canal Street? And on Jackson's statue in another square - "The Union, it must & shall be preserved." I suppose they will drill out these inscriptions if ever our Army leaves here.

I wrote mother that I was stopping with Gen. Canby by his invitation. Last evening he lent me his fine horse & buggy and I took for a guide Lt. Col. Hamlin U.S. Colored Artillery (who was a non Com. Officer in 3d Maine when we first came out) and we rode to Lake Ponchartrain - about 6 miles. The shell roads are very fine & I enjoyed the ride much. There is not much to see out there.

But it is the drive for all who wish to take a ride out of town. There is a kind of Coffee house out there - a shooting gallery &c. On our way back we passed the dwelling ground where many a poor fellow has fallen a victim to passion and a false sense of honor. It is a pretty spot shaded by live oaks with two Coffee houses where the different parties would meet. There is a kind of little Arbor-house midway between the Coffee houses where the seconds would meet to arrange.

There are some fine houses on Esplanade St. e.g. that of Slidell and that of Beauregard. But there are hardly any to compare with the palatial residences of New York & Boston. The building material here is chiefly brick or wood. No nice stone. Beauregard had begun a magnificent granite building for the Custom house & it is now used for the P.O. but it was not completed.

Gen. Banks is here & his wife is said to make her appearance sometimes in a \$4,000 dress but he has no control over any military matters now. I suppose he dabbles in the political concerns & perhaps he may do some good in this way. The troops mostly belong to the 19th Army Corps (Gen. Reynolds) or have been stolen from the Deptmt of the Tenn. Gen. Canby says however that they shall all be returned in due time. Active operations are going on in Arkansas now & Gen. Reynolds went up there yesterday or rather started for White River. Capt. Seth Farrington is his Adjutant General now. You will remember him at Bowdoin I suppose.

I feel anxious to hear from you to know whether you or Rowland or both were drafted. I also am dreading to hear - for I can hardly expect to hear that father is still alive. I am in hopes to get a leave of absence now that Atlanta is fallen but I don't know but that Otis will think I have had leave enough in this excursion, especially as there are others of the staff who desire a leave of absence. I shall stop a day or

so at Vicksburg & <delta>, I think, at Memphis. I will then hurry back to join Otis.

This morning before Breakfast I took a horseback ride to see portions of the city. This evening Col. Hamlin & Lt. Jackson - both of Maine - are going to take me to ride in a two horse carriage.

May the Lord bless & keep you & direct all your ways is the prayer of Yr. Affectionate brother C. H. Howard