

we get 9 miles below Atlanta. You will not get this till after 4th July - if you get it at all - By that time I must have [Dec 5th] [marginalia]

(4)

our post to ship Keifield said, "wait, let us see what comes of all this firing & cheering before we move" - "It will not do to move the center just now." or perhaps he said "It will not do to move from behind the works until this artillery firing is over. We will ex- from our columns to the enemy's shells, and (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 even 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 (27<sup>th</sup>) more than 6000 in this Corps alone - I suppose about the same in the 20<sup>th</sup> but much less in the others. Our reinforcements have <sup>more than</sup> equalled our losses in the whole army. <sup>position</sup> Yesterday, I was out with O's examining the

but I hope you will write to me often. I have not been a letter for some time from you - I am from Rowland since mother has not written in a great while. I hear that the works

hard and is tired. I am sorry for this. Did you have a pleasant time at Leeds while you

James was there. Rowland mentions them. How they returned to Massachusetts - letters? James like to meet them. Now - and up the as though for the cause not well. How is he? We are comfortable. I submit or you in a Campaign. We wounded are better - I suppose than they are

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps, DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND. In the Field. Near Reservoir Mt. Co. July 1864

My dear brother 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 assaults on the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 snips have come forward on the line 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. Quess who had fled South. The



possibly be in the way of the Polaris. A. fact with all  
the breaking of our long line of communication we now have  
suffered for anything - except that our horses were for a while in  
short allowance while we were here. But that  
house, a miserable little old wooden affair  
we use for kitchen - But the yard is pleasant  
with shade trees of different kinds, oak  
locusts, 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 ~~now~~ of tents & tent-flies. We have now  
two tents one of which I have the honor to oc-  
cupy 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  
sides and <sup>on</sup> 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 in our own

was before we secured the R. R. this side of the Elkhart  
River & Alatoonal Mountains. It is said that there is no  
mountainous country below the Catatahoossee and that there  
is no strong position for the Rebels except on that line till

here 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 (mustetry). We heard  
from Gen. Thomas <sup>last evening</sup> that Seaford was a little  
pressed by the enemy on the extreme left or  
apprehensive of something of the kind. He then  
for wished a demonstration last night and  
this morning. In our artillery opened  
all along - We could hear the boom from  
McPherson away beyond (East) of Kenne-  
dow. It was a grand cannonade - All on  
our side however as far as our force was  
concerned. The same was done this morn-  
ing and the skirmishes began to fire and  
make as if they intended to advance - One  
man in the rear by instruction set off a tre-  
mendous charge 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



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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.

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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].

through a gap in the trees I think he went to earth - this  
 first we have seen here  
 The Rebels to construct rail  
 siding their fine work, on  
 this side of the river.  
 We had some of them in  
 front of our right Battery  
 & they are not there this  
 morning - besides, from in  
 hill our people have seen  
 the R. R. ridge burning  
 this morning - We are  
 well and will go now (to  
 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 smoke  
 is going but it is pretty  
 stout fuel whether this will  
 burn the quantity of all  
 the Grenades & Raining

between here and Nashville (250 miles) We have  
 just some more  
 a young man in  
 Prairie Agent is on  
 a train of cars  
 Captains of the  
 and we have  
 \$50 for this  
 \$250 for this  
 he has collected  
 the of the  
 the of the  
 at this place  
 1500  
 1864  
 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 Camp on  
 this side the river but  
 down the R. R. farther,  
 holding a peninsula made  
 by a bend in the Chattahoochee.

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,  
 Department of the Cumberland.



This morning we hear that they are gone. Our left bank runs along the river which is less than a mile from here directly East but then it turns & runs South and <sup>until it reaches the bend (3 miles)</sup> the R.R. keeps parallel. The Rebels had a Ponton <sup>(They had a bridge also near the R.R. bridge)</sup> bridge here and thought 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

and save the money - Col. Sherman on Chief of  
the bridge away from them. Scofield has gone above  
and secured a lodgment  
for the other side the river  
5 miles up. He lost only  
2 men in doing it & cap-  
tured one Cannon & a Gen-  
eral Officer. One of our best  
(Newton's) has gone up 15  
miles to Roswell where  
Garwood's Cavalry effected  
a crossing yesterday. Mc  
Sherman is up there by this  
time and these movements  
I suppose caused the

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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]

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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







About the capture of the 400 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 Scipio 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 or rather

struck Tunnel Hill. That once was  
for a day or two at Roswell. We  
suppose the Rebel Army is going  
to wait for us in their entrenchments  
just this side of Atlanta - probably  
along the banks of Peach Tree Creek.  
Sherman did not come to hurry  
after getting them across the Chat-  
ahoochee - Two of our Divs 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 14<sup>th</sup> Corps  
to throw a bridge & cross - Probably  
the 20<sup>th</sup> Corps will cross at the same  
place. One of our own Divs (Stout's)  
crossed above at Scipio's bridge & moved  
down to cover the crossing of the re-  
mainder of the Corps & the building  
of the bridge here at Pace's Ferry station.



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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

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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



factories & cannot tell I see Gen. Canby.

Be sure and have letters sent me to Louisville care of Capt. Miller Proprietor of the Hall 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 much John O's and to whom of the sum of - say \$5 or 50 - I have a room all by myself - I am somewhat anxious to hear from O's for I knew they

have been moving & probably have had a great battle before Atlanta now. It is about time for my ride - My heart never better -

My dear  
C. A. Howard  
4 P.M.  
P.S.  
Capt. Norton has just arrived from Memphis bringing the news that Atlanta is captured. Hurrah for Sherman!

Grand Quarters District of Vicksburg,  
Vicksburg, Miss. Sept 7 1864.

I arrived here this morning having enjoyed a very pleasant passage down 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 heavy 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 <sup>with them</sup> coming down



from Memphis. It was <sup>(Mr. R. E. Hill)</sup> not so large and fine  
a boat as "The Darling" which brought us from  
Lancaster. But Dr. B's family were pleasant  
company for me and of course as long to-  
gether 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 "seers" 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 you humble servant.

We had no quarrels firing nor other very  
remarkable incident coming down unless I  
mention a collision with a gunboat which fright-  
ened the ladies terribly & ditho most of the men.

It was the fault of our own and 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 despatches 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  
(Gamb.) of the Gunboat "Neosho" at the Mouth  
of White River. He told me most of his rela-  
tives 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 watch-  
ing too for she is truly of the class called  
"Cotton thieves" and does not mind <sup>that</sup> as to  
what sort of supplies she trades for Cotton  
nor whom she buys it or 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 to  
Gen. Canby & besides, I have not completed  
my business for this & Gen. Sherman sets



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9/7/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-157

Head Quarters District  
of Vicksburg  
Vicksburg, Miss.

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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'l) 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!



Collegiate note Capt. Formyer on his  
stop. 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 re-  
mained longer in this pleasant city.

I found another Collegiate note Maj. Spring  
of ~~Meriden~~ <sup>Meriden</sup> & he is to call for  
me with a carriage to ride out to  
Lake Ponchartraine 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  
Mexico to go into business there.

I suspect there are many more old friends  
here of whom I only knew how or where to find  
them & had the time to do so - Hoping  
that this will find you well <sup>and</sup> enjoying God's  
blessing & the comfort of His love - I remain  
Your affectionate son C. H. Howard

1664  
Inspector  
down the  
Mississippi

Headquarters, Military Div. of the West Mississippi,

New Orleans, Sept 10<sup>th</sup> 1864.

My dear Mother

64665

I wrote you from Vicksburg  
and now I have a little leisure that I cannot  
better spend than in telling you how kindly Pro-  
vidence still spares and blesses me. We had  
a fine large steamer from Vicksburg here - start-  
ed just after sundown and were two nights and  
nearly two days in making the passage. We  
spent two hours at Natchez - a beautiful city  
built upon the high bluffs - I believe the first  
after leaving Vicksburg - We took one night  
in getting to Natchez. I called on Gen. Bray-  
son who commands the Post. Some of the  
wealthiest & most aristocratic (in a mild sense)  
people of the South reside at Natchez. Many  
of them have always been good Union  
people. They say, that is my acquaintance -  
say that some of the most refined &  
beautiful ladies of the world reside at  
Natchez 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 - becomes 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 fre-  
quently as once in every half or quarter  
of a mile - The houses are all prettily  
located & 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. Leakey as hospitable  
& kind as Gen. Dana. He first invited  
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

attention 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. Granger, who  
you will remember formerly commanded  
the 4<sup>th</sup> Army Corps & was succeeded by  
Otis - came and gave me a ride last  
evening in a two horse carriage of the  
most finished make. He drove him-  
self & 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



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9/10/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-158

Headquarters, Military  
Div. of the West  
Mississippi,  
New Orleans, Louisiana

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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 suppose he settles in the political concerns  
& perhaps he may do some good in this  
way - The troops mostly belong to the 9th  
Army Corps (Gen. Reynolds) or have been stolen  
from the Dept of the Tenn. Gen. Canby says  
however that they shall all be returned in due  
time - Active operations are going on in Ar-  
kansas now & Gen Reynolds went up there  
yesterday or rather started for White River. Capt  
Jeth Farrington is his Adjutant General now. You  
will remember him at Brownsville 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 ex-  
=cuse - 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 Mem-  
phis - I will then hurry back to join Otis.

This morning before Breakfast started a horseback  
ride to see portions of the city. This evening left Mem-  
phis & St. 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  
your affectionate brother W. H. Howard

Headquarters, Military Div. of the West Mississippi,

New Orleans, Sept. 11 1864.

My dear brother

I wrote to mother  
that I expected to leave this city last  
evening but Gen. Canby did not get the  
despatches 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.

Perfect Time  
1864



The audience was small - The "Leash" refused to attend the Union Church - Society is in an unenviable state down here. The Rebels seem dogged and unreconciled. But they are brutes 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 an 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 <sup>for a guide</sup> Mr. Col. Hamilton U.S. Colored Artillery (who was a non com. officer in 3<sup>d</sup> Maine when we first came out) and we rode to Lake Ponchartraine - about 6 miles - The all 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 duelling 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 second, would meet to arrange.

There are some fine houses on Esplanade St. e.g. that of Ridell 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



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9/11/1864

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-159

Headquarters, Military  
Div. of the West  
Mississippi  
New Orleans, La.

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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.

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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.

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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