

(4)

Merely military matters. Maj. Whittensy started yesterday to meet Lizzie - We have not heard a word from her though Otis has telegraphed three times & asked for answer. I hope she is on the way, & not far off for this Army will move by week from next Monday - about the time you get this letter. I don't to remain free Lizzie & Otis says she may go with me down to visit Beaufort if she will or would like to - I wish she would & Mrs. Saxton would be delighted to have her - but I have little hopes she would consent to be so long absent from the little ones except for the sake of being with Otis. We expect she will bring Guy & Grace along or at least one of them. Guy has become so much of a man he might I should judge be of assistance to his mother in travelling.

It is a beautiful moonlight night - All our doors & windows open - sitting out on the veranda a good deal - Shrubby in the front garden all in leaf - bright & thrifty - The trees rapidly clothing themselves in their Spring attire. Peach trees all decked in luxuriant pink blossoms - They remind of the first part of April 1862 when we first

[illegible]

horror of night at Columbia - the
burning & hacking of the city. It seems there was
a brigade located in town and the men got
possession of some liquor - Many of them
became drunk and unmanageable before
the responsible officers were aware of the fact.
Some cotton had been set on fire in the town
and some buildings might have caught fire
from the burning cotton but soon the infuriated
soldiers were spreading the flames - Two thirds
of the entire city was consumed. Otis & his
staff were up all night. Thousands of people
were thrown into the streets in wild despair.
The house where Otis was, once got on fire
& the ladies were dreadfully terrified. But
I will not attempt to picture what I did not
see - The suffering must have been appalling.

P.S. I am glad Roland will assist - being on the farm - I should
think he would do better than any one else - Do not arrange so
that you will have to work hard, dear mother. Why should you?

Otis is writing his report in a room oppo-
site to this - Just this moment opened the door
to ask about the name of a certain Colonel -
Is now here - having just read a new order
of Gen. Sherman's which makes some trans-
fers of Generals from this Army to that
of Gen. Sherman. Otis dislikes to lose
his good officers. But we have to
acknowledge that we have many such
and Gen. Sherman evidently thinks it
for the good of ^{his} whole Army to subtract
a little from the Army of the Tennessee to add
to the Army of Georgia or the Left Wing -
We all regret to lose Major Gen. Mower and
Brig. Gen. Walcott - The latter was wounded
at the Griswoldville battle on the Savannah
campaign. We have good Generals to take
the places of them who leave. But you
cannot be interested so much as I in these

4/1/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-172

Head-Quarters Dep't
and Army of the
Tennessee
Goldsboro N. C.

Head-Quarters Dep't and Army of the Tennessee [Letterhead]
Goldsboro N. C. April 1st 1865

My dear Mother

It is Saturday evening and we have just arisen from the supper table. I do not expect to be here much longer and I will pen you a letter - one more before leaving the army of the Tennessee.

What a variety of scenes and circumstances has been mine since my letters first began to date from these Hd. Qrs. Before Atlanta, Georgia. Sometimes I cannot help regretting my absence from the Army during the Carolina campaign. It makes me feel a little like a stranger and interloper when I hear them talking over the adventures and experiences of the march as I do at almost every meal and did at supper tonight. They were talking of the night at Columbia - the burning & sacking of the city. It seems there was a brigade located in town and the men got possession of some liquor. Many of them became drunk and unmanageable before the responsible officers were aware of the fact. Some cotton had been set on fire in the town and some buildings might have caught fire from the burning cotton but soon the infuriated soldiers were spreading the flames. Two thirds of the entire city was consumed. Otis & his staff were up all night. Thousands of people were thrown into the streets in wild despair. The house where Otis was once got on fire & the ladies were dreadfully terrified. But I will not attempt to picture what I did not see. The suffering must have been appalling. Otis is writing his report in a room opposite to this. Just this moment opened the door to ask about the name of a certain Colonel.

So now here, having just read a new order of Gen. Sherman's which makes some transfers of Generals from this Army to that of Gen. Slocum. Otis dislikes to lose his good officers. But we have to acknowledge that we have <nobooody sick> and Gen. Sherman evidently thinks it for the good of his whole army to subtract a little from the Army of the Tennessee to add to the Army of Georgia on the Left Wing. We all regret to lose Major Gen. Mower and Brig. Gen. Walcott. The latter was wounded at the Griswoldville battle on the Savannah campaign. We have good Generals to take the places of those who leave. But you cannot be interested so much as I in these purely military matters.

Maj. Whittlesey started yesterday to meet Lizzie. We have not heard a word from her though Otis has telegraphed three times & asked for answer. I hope she is on the way & not far off for this Army will move by week from next Monday - about the time you get this letter. I desire to remain & see Lizzie & Otis says she may go with me down to visit Beaufort if she will or would like to. I wish she would & Mrs. Saxton would be delighted to have her, but I have little hopes she would consent to be so long absent from the little ones except for the sake of being with Otis. We expect she will bring Guy & Grace along or at least one of them. Guy has become so much of a man he might I should judge be of assistance to his mother in traveling.

It is a beautiful moonlight night - all our doors & windows open - sitting out on the verandah a good deal. Shrubbery in the front garden all in leaf, bright & thrifty. The trees rapidly clothing themselves in their Spring attire. Peach trees all decked in luxuriant pink blossoms. They remind of the first part of April 1862 when we first landed upon the Virginia peninsula. I used to notice the Peach trees there because they were the first I had seen in bloom. We landed at Ship Point April 4th 1862. War has had a good deal more of romance lately or is it a change in my feelings! It may be a calousing of my heart towards the disagreeable. But kind Providence has given me many changes for the better since then. What a blessing to be transferred to the West to see so much of our great country and share in the brilliant successes which have not only cheered us but filled the hearts of our people at home with joy.

Capt. Gilbreth has gone home & probably will not return in season for the coming Campaign but Lt. Freeman who used to be with us in the Eleventh Corps & afterwards in the 4th & had left the service has returned & will do Otis good service as he is attached & is a very willing & untiring officer. Capt. Cole

from Gen Sherman's staff has also joined us & will also act as Aide de Camp. So I do not expect to be greatly missed. Otis says my absence during the Carolina Campaign has helped to wean him but it is hard, very hard for me to leave.

He has applied again for Col. Fullerton of the old 4th Corps – the adjutant General. He applied before & failed. I do hope he will get Fullerton as he suits Otis precisely – diligent, respectful, attentive, accurate and always gentlemanly in his deportment. Fullerton never takes of liquor & that can not be said of many of the staff we have had since coming to this Army.

I think Harry Stinson – now Major – will go along – though not able to do duty still he may be able to accompany the Army & his company & constancy of affection for Otis would be a comfort and his judgment is always good where he deems himself competent to judge & he will not pronounce an opinion unless he does think himself qualified to do so.

Tomorrow is the Sabbath. We are to have service here. This is not a very elegant house but is very fair. Our staff occupy four besides Maj. Whittlesey will probably not go along this campaign. He may possibly take a negro Regt. Fullerton arrives – Otis will have staff enough, otherwise I think Maj. Whittlesey will probably go.

I hear from Beebe that six companies of my Regt. Have been organized – so it goes on Lt. Sampson of the Signal Corps & who has been with us for two or three campaigns, is writing for Otis this evening. He was along <thro> South & North Carolina & so can help remember as I could not. I am studying Tactics a little – not much as there is so much else to do. I sell my fine bay mare - “Mary Falkner” to Otis for \$200 & another horse which he had left at Beaufort in a disabled condition.

I hope to find a letter or letters from you at B. and one from Gracie & possibly from Guy. Tell Gracie I wish her to write me whether she remembers to pray for those poor little colored children who are just learning fro the first time what it means to pray & who is their Saviour & learning to sing his praises. They promised to pray for “Gracie Howard”, “Gen. Howard's little girl” as they say they do every night for Gen. Howard who was in at their Sabbath school & talked to them while he was at Beaufort.

I hope Isabella is with you, especially if Lizzie has left to visit us. Isabella is as good as a daughter it seems to me. If she is with you please give her my kindest remembrances & wishes for her happiness. I regretted not seeing her last winter. Lizzie writes that “Wash” is doing well. Tell him I am pleased at this. Sam sends his regards to “Wash”.

Your loving son
C. H. Howard

P.S. I am glad Roland will assist to carry on the farm. I should think he would do better than any one else. Do not arrange so that you will have to work hard, dear mother. Why should you? C.H.H

Gen. Sherman was to move
Tuesday but the news from
Richmond may change his
plans - I hardly think, however,
that it will defer his movement
as Johnson remains with a
small army between him &
Raleigh & ought to be
taken care of in order that
the Confederacy may receive
its finishing blow.

I was sorry to hear you were
without a girl - hope you have
obtained one before this - Oh so
many poor white & black girls as
I have seen starving for want
of employment - it seems too
bad you should be suffering for
help - There were a large no. of
poor white refugees on the boat last
night - a subscription was taken up
to provide them with supper & breakfast.

I hope to find fellow
soldiers from these
little colored children
will wish to know
if I have heard from
you Howard and
whether the only
for them as they
do for her father.
Remember me to
"Papa" - I am glad
he is doing so well.
How does the old man
with the red hair?
I have just ar-
rived here by steamer from Ft.
Monroe & Morehead City. Left Oth
at Newberne N.C. Thursday night
taking the cars at midnight and
reaching Morehead City about 2 1/2 a.m.
I met Maj. Plinston & others of our
Armed Hd. qrs. just from Beau-
fort S.C. They say my Regiment
is full & I am impatient to get
to it. Beebe is doing well.
I left Morehead City (which by the way
is no city at all, only a few houses
and a miserable hotel) about 4
a.m. being put on board the steamer
by a tug. I have two young men
with me going down to take com-
missions in my Regiment. Yes-
terday I was delayed all day at Ft.

Baltimore Apr. 1865

C. H. Howard

Monroe but could find no
boat direct to Port Royal or
any point South of Wilmington.

But this morning to my great
chagrin I find by the paper that
the Arago (the best steamer ply-
ing between New York & Hilton
Head and which I knew was to
leave N. Y. yesterday) is to stop
at Ft. Monroe to take on some
distinguished personages from
Washington going down to the
Ft Sumpter celebration. So if
I had known & had remained
at Ft. Monroe I might have
taken passage direct, saved all
this time, secured a good steamer,
and arrived in the South Depart-
ment in time to witness the
grand celebration at Ft Sumpter.

But there was no way
for me to have known of this
opportunity as it was not known

at Ft. Monroe when I left so I
will not "cry over spilt-milk"
but will attend Church here
today - then go on to N. J. and
wait for the next steamer which
will certainly go in a week's
time.

I left Otis the night he
got Sizzie's letter saying she
could not come. We had come
down to Newberne to meet
her - Maj. Whittier had come
to Baltimore to escort her to
Newberne. So of course we
were much disappointed. Well
if Sizzie had not started
till the day her letter left
she would not probably have
had much time with Otis
as the letter arrived Thursday
night & Otis was to return
to Goldsboro Monday next.

4/9/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-173

Baltimore, [Md]

Baltimore, Apr 9, 1865

My dear Mother

I have just arrived here by Steamer from Ft. Monroe & Morehead City. Left Otis at Newberne N.C. Thursday night taking the cars at midnight and reaching Morehead City about 2 ½ a.m.

I met Maj. Stinson & others of our reserve Hd. qrs. just from Beaufort S.C. They say my Regiment is full & I am impatient to get to it. Beebe is doing well. I left Morehead City (which by the way is no city at all, only a few houses and a miserable hotel) about 4 a.m. being first on board the Steamer by a tug. I have two young men with me going down to take commissions in my Regiment.

Yesterday I was delayed all day at Ft. Monroe but could find no boat direct to Port Royal or any point South of Wilmington. But this morning to my great chagrin I find by the paper that the Arago (the best Steamer plying between New York & Hilton Head and which I knew was to leave N. Y. yesterday) is to stop at Ft. Monroe to take on some distinguished personages from Washington going down to the Ft. Sumpter celebration. So if I had known & had remained at Ft. Monroe I might have taken passage direct, saved all this time, secured a good Steamer, and arrived in the South Department in time to witness the grand celebration at Ft. Sumpter.

But there was no way for me to have known of this opportunity as it was not known at Ft. Monroe when I left so I will not "cry over spilt-milk" but will attend church here today, then go on to N.Y. and wait for the next Steamer which will certainly go in a week's time.

I left Otis the night he got Lizzie's letter saying she could not come. We had come down to Newberne to meet her. Maj Whittlesey had come to Baltimore to escort her to Newberne. So of course we were much disappointed. Still if Lizzie had not started till the day her letter left shw would not probably have had much time with Otis as the letter arrived Thursday night & Otis was to return to Goldsboro Monday next.

Gen. Sherman was to move Tuesday but the news from Richmond may change his plans. I hardly think, however, that it will defer his movement as Johnson remains with a small army between him & Raleigh & ought to be taken care of in order that the Confederacy may receive its finishing blow.

I was sorry to hear you were without a girl. Hope you have obtained one before this. Oh so many poor white & black girls as I have seen starving for want of employment, it seems too bad you should be suffering for help. There were a large no. of poor white refugees on the boat last night. A subscription was taken up to provide them with supper & breakfast.

Please tell Grace & Guy I hope to find letters from them at Beaufort, S.C. Those little colored children will wish to know if I have heard from Grace Howard and whether she will pray for them as they do for her father. Remember me to "Wash". I am glad he is doing so well. How does he get on with the reading?

I have written to Rowland to mail here. May write in N.Y.

Your loving Son
C. H. Howard

a pair of single sheets. - You
see I am getting to be a lux-
urious soldier - Everything is
to my taste here in the Regt.
The negroes learn easily enough.
Drill better than any Regt of
whites in camp some length
of time - are respectful & quite
soldierly in their demeanor -
Officers seem to be well dis-
posed - Lt. Col. Beebe is
a treasure for an officer - I
expect to get my arms tomorrow.
Went to Hilton Head town about
them yesterday - I have enjoyed
the use of a horse for the forage
so need not hurry about buying
again - Gen. Saxton was out
at my Parade tonight - I had
Rev. Mr. Beck (Baptist) quite an
old gentleman to offer the evening
prayer - This last I have established
as a customary exercise - The Chaplain
in turn taking turns like Mr. Fuller
arrives - You ought to hear the

men singing tonight - They all seem very happy & sing their
own heartier religious
songs - The whole Regt.
seemed to be singing -
All the young men
blow out their other
flames are in full bloom
as the air is loaded with
fragrance - Our Regt.
are the champion for our
Methodist Colonization - They
the South of Carolina this &
all the provisions that I
want to see before I go
in a vacation & to the Indies.
I expect to be back in
a week or two like
C. H. Howard

kind and not much like
writing but the steamers go
North so all done I cannot
allow one to leave without
a word to you.
I had the great satisfaction
of attending the grand cele-
bration at Charleston and then
came down here on Sunday - taking
all day but it was quiet &
not unlike the Sabbath on our
little boat "Snack Deon".
Prof Robinson of Kent, Hill

who has been out here for
some time as Treasury Agent
was on board of his sister who
was a school mate of mine &
now lives here with her hus-
band who is a trader.

Prof. R. gave us a sermon &
we sang hymns almost all
the way - There were two
young ladies from Scotland
who on board who had been
visiting Mrs. Gen. Saxton at
Charleston whom I had got
acquainted with there - ac-
companied the party to Fort Sump-
ter - escorting the youngest & prettiest
of course - Miss Nettie Baldwin.

They are staying at Savannah
with their father who is here for
his health - I found four
good letters from Rowland

here, one enclosing one from
you & a short one from Lizzie
in which she calls me "a
ladies man" - This is anything
but complimentary - I wonder
if I do belong to that species
of nobodies - I am sitting
in my tent - sole occupant -
It is nothing new for me to live
in a tent but here I am "mon-
arch of all I survey" - Here a
new desk - new cot bedstead
husk mattress and ditto pillow -
a pair of decent pillow - cases
from home would be very accep-
table and by the way if you
go to Holliston before Mr. Fuller
comes out (I expect him for
my Chaplain some time next
month) perhaps you can get
him to bring me a bundle - I
would like 1/2 doz good linen shirts
if I have them at home and

4/21/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-174

Hd. qrs. 128th U. S. C.
T.
Beaufort S.C.

Hd. qrs. 128th U. S. C. T.
Beaufort S.C.
Apr 21 1865

My dear Mother

I feel a little tired and not much writing but the Steamers go North so seldom I cannot allow one to leave without a word to you.

I had the great satisfaction of attending the grand celebration at Charleston and then came down here on Sunday - taking all day but it was quiet & not unlike the Sabbath on our little boat "Enoch Dean".

Prof Robinson of Kents Hill who has been out here for some time as Treasury Agent was on board & his sister who was a school mate of mine & now lives here with her husband who is a trader. Prof. R gave us a sermon & we sang hymns almost all the way. There were two young ladies from Cleveland Ohio on board who had been visiting Mrs. Gen. Saxton at Charleston & whom I had got acquainted with there, accompanying the party to Fort Sumpter - escorting the youngest & prettiest of course - Miss Nettie Baldwin. They are staying at Savannah with their father who is here for his health.

I found four good letters from Rowland here, one enclosing one from you & a short one from Lizzie in which she calls me "a ladies man." This is anything but complimentary. I wonder if I do belong to that species of nobodies.

I am sitting in my tent - sole occupant. It is nothing new for me to live in a tent but here I am "monarch" of all I survey. Have a new desk, new cot bedstead husk mattress and ditto pillow, a pair of decent pillow-cases from home would be very acceptable and by the way if you go to Hallowell before Mr. Fuller comes out (I expect him for my Chaplain some time next month) perhaps you can get him to bring me a bundle. I would like ½ doz good linen shirts if I have them at home and a pair of single sheets. You see I am getting to be a luxurious soldier.

Everything is to my task here in the Regt. The negroes learn easily enough. Drill better than any Regt. of whites in camp same length of time. Are respectful & quite soldierly in their demeanor. Officers seem to be well disposed. Lt. Col. Beebe is a treasure for an officer. I expect to get my arms tomorrow. Went to Hilton Head to see about them yesterday. I have enjoyed the use of a horse for the forage so need not hurry about buying again.

Gen. Saxton was out at my Parade tonight. I had Rev. Mr. Peck (Baptist) quite an old gentleman to offer the evening prayer. This last I have established as a customary exercise. The Chaplains in town taking turns till Mr. Fuller arrives. You ought to hear the men singing tonight. They all seem very happy & sing their own peculiar religious songs. The whole Regt. Seemed to be singing.

All the roses, orange blossoms & many other flowers are in full bloom so the air is loaded with fragrance. Our hearts are still sorrowful for our national calamity. May the Lord sanctify this & all his providential dealings to our welfare as a nation & as individuals.

I expect Dexter Howard down here soon to take a company.

Yr. Affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

to Rowland B. Howardy

the moral well being of my
men and the community—

They men seem very happy to-
night - singing by moonlight - They
generally sing Religious songs.

I intended to attend a S. S. for Colored Children at the "Smith Plantation" Today but a paper about "Mustering Matters," concerning which there is disagreement & quarrelling between General Saxton & General Littlefield (the latter mustered in my Regt) was sent me by Gen. S. & occupied my time till it was too late & what was worse it greatly upset me for my Sunday Service - But I rode down (it is 4 miles) & felt the better for the ride & the time of reflection on horse back - Made my excuse for disappointing the S. School - Rode back in time for Parade - I wish Maj. W. would join your Church - He thinks of leaving the service & then returning here for business. It is pretty hard for me to relinquish my old purposes of being a Gospel Minister - but Providence will direct & the way is clear enough for the present - Don't Ella well enough to

"How do you say our Sable Brethren would
I press it -
I wonder if you
where Black homes
there today a day
as ever do & at your
inght to smelt the
progress of the day -
what magnificent place
- The Grand Canyon
of the Grand Canyon
has been taken
in the
Gardens.
Tell Ella first
rather get something
at "get a girl" if they
don't want her put
from
with Linda Lane
the brother
W. Howard

S.C.

Horton

Whitney of 380 W. St. I was
ever introduced by Capt. Foxton
of my Regt. who formerly belonged
to some Regt. Maj. W. told me
he was from Farmington & knew you &
that he was going to start for home
tomorrow. He called again this
evening - or rather was at Parade
& came into my tent afterwards.
Rev. Mr. Harris, Post Chaplain,
here - said a few words to the Regt.
tonight & offered a prayer. It was
the only service today as I was
disappointed in the preacher I
had thought suggested. Mr. H.
knew Maj. W. told me he was
a Christian - I read the Major
some of your recent letters (recent-

5/7/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B.
Howard]

CHH-175

Hd. qrs. Camp Stanton
Beaufort S.C.

Beaufort S.C.
Hd. Qrs. Camp Stanton
May 7, 1865

Dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

I was surprised this morning by a call from Maj. Whitney of 33d U.S.C. He was introduced by Capt Saxton of my Regt. Who formerly belonged to some Regt. Maj. W. told me he was from Farmington & knew you & that he was going to start for home tomorrow. He called again this evening - or rather was at Parade & came into my tent afterwards. Rev. Mr. Harris, Post Chaplain here, said a few words to the Regt. Tonight & offered a prayer. It was the only Service today as I was disappointed in the preacher I had thought engaged. Mr. H. knew Maj. W. & told me he was a Christian. I read the Major some of your recent letters (recently come into my possession but not very late date). I have read them over a good many times and hope I will get more like them soon. The Major, it seems, has become a professor of Religion since joining the Army. I had a good talk with him. He speaks in the highest terms of my Major who was a Capt. In his Regt. All that I have seen of Major Danielson accords with these statements. He is faithful & true. He is a Christian & will be in the more sympathy with me I trust. Lt. Col. Beebe has so pious a father & mother & has had so good principles instilled into him that he seems to approve of every Religious exercise and Christian measure I adopt. Though he is not a Religious man, he never uses profane language.

We have as usual a fair cool breeze this evening but it was oppressively hot this morning.

I wonder if I sent you a photograph view of "The Barnwell Plantation". I visited there yesterday. It is 10 miles distant, but Saturday is my play-day. We have but one drill in the morning.

Now the War is over I often have a longing to go home and be with those I love. This is a hard world (is it not?) In which we are so constituted as to love but few and must be separated even from those. I am growing old I think rapidly. Wish I might not lose my youthful glow of feelings but think I am fast doing so. I hope soon to get the military post running so well here that I can devote myself a little to other things pertaining to the moral well being of my men and the Community.

My men seem very happy tonight, singing by moonlight. They generally sing Religious songs. I intended to attend a S.S. for Colored Children at the "Smith Plantation" today but a paper about "mustering matters" concerning which there is disagreement & quarreling between General Saxton & General Littlefield (who later mustered in my Regt.) was sent me by Gen. S. & occupied my time till it was too late & what was worse it greatly unsettled my for any Sunday Service. But I rode down (it is 4 miles) & felt the better for the ride & the time of reflection on horseback. Made my excuse for disappointing the S. School, rode back in time for Parade. I wish Maj. W. would join your church. He thinks of leaving the service & then returning here for business.

It is pretty hard for me to relinquish my old purposes of being a Gospel minister, but Providence will direct & the way is clear enough for the present.

Isn't Ella well enough to write me a few lines just to say "How de'?" as our sable brethren would express it. I wonder if you have black berries three times a day as we do & Oh you ought to snuff the fragrances of the large white magnolia blossoms. The orange blossoms are gone now and the scarlet pomegranate flowers have taken their places in the gardens.

Tell Ella I will either get homesick or "get a girl" if she doesn't write me pretty soon.

With much love. Yr. brother
C. H. Howard

P.S. You must send my letters to mother when you can. C. H. H.

P.S. No. 2. I send you by Maj. W. a brick from Sumpter which I brought away in the memorable 14th April. The "Barnwell Plantation" is one of the wonders of Port Royal Island!

friends. I imagine Otis is in
Maine by this time and that
his dear little family is very
happy. I am eager to know
where Otis will go now. I do
so much wish he might come
to this Department. I think
he could do great good down
here and find work worthy of
his ambition as a Christian Wel-
-dier and patriot. They have
tried to get my Regt. ordered to
Savannah but Gen. Foster has
thus far prevented it. As Colard
there wishes it to make up a brigade
for himself to Command & Gen. Will-
more who now commands the Dept.
is disposed to gratify him. Only
two of Gen. Foster's Regiments
had been completed - the other is
under my Command here - He was
in hopes to finish at least two
more and then get admitted into

"Camp Stanton"
Beaufort S. C.
May 10 1865

My dear Mother

I have plenty to
busy myself about this evening
but I am in the mood to write
to you and will indulge myself.
It is about 8 1/2 P.M. "Taps"
have just sounded to silence
the merry singing voices of
the men - They are as happy
as any people could be, op-
-ferently. It is a full moon
tonight - It has been intensely warm
part of the time today but our
redeeming breeze sprang up as
usual this afternoon and
it is now cool and delightful.

My Officers are still singing
and the harmony of their good
strong male voices is pleasant upon

The evening breeze. I have taken
a hornback ride since Parade -
galloping, trotting and walking
my horse according to my thoughts -
thinking fast and of business always
insuring a gallop - Reflecting or med-
itating of the absent allows my
horse to slacken down to a walk
and trotting is to rest horse and
rider when the mind comes back
to present scenes. I rode down
along the bank of Beaufort River -
Nothing could be more pleasant -
I was gone about an hour and
went $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles back = 7 miles.

I have the use of a fine large
bay horse by furnishing the owner
with "keeping" for two.

My health has not been better
for years than it is now. I am as-
tonished that I am so well. St.
L. Beebe is unwell a good
deal. He will have a leave

this summer. I shall miss his
companionship much. You know
he is the only old mess-mate I
have here. Doctor Howard
gave me a pleasant surprise by
appearing before Breakfast
last Sunday morning. From
present appearances he will suc-
ceed admirably with his company.
I am glad to have so faithful an
officer. I hope all my officers
will arrive soon - I was dis-
appointed about my Chaplain
Mr. Fuller - but I need a Chap-
lain much. I believe him the
most important personage or that
he ought to be in a Regiment
of this kind. The regular mail
steamer has sailed (yesterday) so this
letter may not go for a week.

I get so few letters that I fear
I will lose the reckoning of
everything at home and all my

of Albert Patten. Drellie writes
that he has been admitted to the
Bar. I am pleased that he has
been so diligent and successful.

He will soon be with you - perhaps
before this letter. Say you are
alone - Hope Rosa will keep you
company for a while as Drellie suggests
that she may. Glad "Wash" is doing
so well - Tell him that "Tom" don't
suit me as well as he ^{used} to.

"Tim" and "Albert" are learning to
read quite well - Does Wash have
any teacher now Grace has gone.

With much love - Yr son
C. H. H.

the Regular Army as a
Brigade - himself the Brigade
Commander. I care very little
what is decided to be done
with my Regiment. If it is
mustered out I will consider
it an indication of Providence
that I am not to be a soldier.
If not and I succeed in
disciplining it - Officers and
men and can see constant
improvement and a prospect
of its continuance then I think
I may regard it as an indi-
cation that I am designed for
this work and had better
persevere in it. In any case
I mean to be superior to cir-
cumstances and contented
with my lot.

My sentinels are calling out
"9 o'clock", "All's well" - I go
to bed always by 10. as I am
up at five in the morning.

This evening Chaplain Harris was up to offer the prayer at Dress Parade and held a prayer-meeting with the men for half an hour or little more at my school-tent. I have some new benches there now - to facilitate the leaning to write. Here I was interrupted by my adjutant bringing a lot of papers to be signed and now it is my bed time.

I have two tents separated by a kind of verandah formed by a tent-fly - My floor is about two feet from the ground and extends across to my rear tent. When it is very warm in the tents I can sit under the tent-fly, and my rear tent serves as a place of retirement if I choose. I have a comfortable husk mattress and husk pillow - By the way I have not yet thanked you for

the pillow-cases. Just what I wanted. I had some poor ones and they will now serve to preserve these pinning them underneath. I recognized Sieggie's hand-writing. - We are still having black-berris three times per day. Our cook is "splendid" to use Ella's ^{expressive} word. She is not very young & don't relish living in a tent. I fear we may not be able to keep her. Her name is "Aunt Sallie".

I will now add a "good night" & God bless my dear Mother - From her loving son
C. H. Howard

P.S. Saturday morn. May 13 - My letter could not go before - Am well and everything prosperous. Dexter H. is well. Rec'd letters from Rowland & Willie last night. Rowland wrote the sad news of the death

5/10/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-176

Camp Stanton
Beaufort S. C.

"Camp Stanton"
Beaufort S. C.
May 10 1865

My dear Mother

I have plenty to busy myself about this evening but I am in the mood to write to you and will indulge myself. It is about 8 ½ P.M. "Taps" have just sounded to silence the many singing voices of the men. They are as happy as any people could be, apparently. It is a full moon tonight. Has been intensely warm part of the time today but our redeeming breeze sprang up as usual this afternoon and it is now cool and delightful.

My officers are still singing and the harmony of their good strong male voices is pleasant upon the evening breeze. I have taken a horseback ride since Parade - galloping, trotting and walking my horse according to my thoughts, thinking fast and of business always insuring a gallop. Reflecting or meditating of the absent allows my horse to slacken down to a walk and trotting is to rest horse and rider when the mind comes back to present scenes. I rode down along the bank of Beaufort River, nothing could be more pleasant. I was gone about an hour and went 3 ½ miles & back - 7 miles. I have the use of a fine large bay horse by furnishing the owner with "keeping" for two.

My health has not been better for years than it is now. I am astonished that I am so well. Lt. Col. Beebe is unwell a good deal. He will have a Leave this Summer. I shall miss his companionship much. You know he is the only old mess mate I have here. Dexter Howard [a second cousin, the son of Warren Howard] gave me a pleasant surprise by appearing before Breakfast last Sunday morning. From present appearances he will succeed admirably with his company. I am glad to have so faithful an officer. I hope all my officers will arrive soon. I was disappointed about my Chaplain Mr. Fuller, and I need a Chaplain much. I believe him the most important personage or that he ought to be in a Regiment of this kind.

The regular mail Steamer has sailed (yesterday) so this letter may not go for a week. I get so few letters that I fear I will lose the reckoning of everything at home and all my friends. I imagine Otis is in Maine by this time and that his dear little family is very happy. I am eager to know where Otis will go now. I do so much wish he might come to this Department. I think he could do great good down here and find work worthy his ambition as a Christian Soldier and patriot.

They have tried to get my Regt. ordered to Savannah but Gen. Saxton has thus far prevented it. A Colonel there wishes it to make up a brigade for himself to command & Gen. Gillmore who now commands the Dept. is disposed to gratify him. Only two of Gen. Saxton's Regiments had been completed - the other is under my command here. He was in hopes to finish at least two more and then get admitted into the Regular Army as a Brigade, himself the Brigade commander. I care very little what is decided to be done with my Regiment. If it is mustered out I will consider it an indication of Providence that I am not to be a soldier. If not and I succeed in disciplining it - officers and men and can see constant improvement and a prospect of its continuance then I think I may regard it as an indication that I am designed for this work and had better persevere in it. In any case I mean to be superior to circumstances and contented with my lot.

My sentinels are calling out "9 o'clock", "all's well". I go to bed always by 10 as I am up at five in the morning. This evening Chaplain Harris was up to offer the prayer at Dress Parade and held a prayer-meeting with the men for half an hour or little more at my school-tent. I have some new benches there now - to facilitate the learning to write.

Here I was interrupted by my adjutant bringing a lot of papers to be signed and now it is my bed time.

I have two tents separated by a kind of verandah formed by a tent-fly. My floor is about two feet from the ground and extends across to my rear tent. When it is very warm in the tents I can sit under the tent-

fly, and my rear tent serves as a place of retirement if I choose. I have a comfortable husk mattress and husk pillow. By the way I have not yet thanked you for the pillow-cases. Just what I wanted. I had some poor ones and they will now serve to preserve these putting them underneath. I recognized Lizzie's hand-writing.

We are still having black-berries three times per day. Our cook is "splendid" to use Ella's expressive word. She is not very young & doesn't relish living in a tent. I fear we may not be able to keep her. Her name is "Aunt Sallie."

I will now add a "good night" & God bless my dear mother. From her loving son
C. H. Howard

P.S. Saturday morn. May 13. My letter could not go before. Am well and everything prosperous. Dexter H. is well. Rec'd letters from Rowland & Dellie last night. Rowland wrote the sad news of the death of Albert Patten [Rowland's brother-in-law, David Albert Patten, a ship captain who died at sea]. Dellie writes that he has been admitted to the Bar. I am pleased that he has been so diligent and successful. He will soon be with you, perhaps before this letter. Says you are alone. Hope Rosa [Rosa Ellen Deane, Dellie's future wife] will keep you company for a while as Dellie suggests that she may. Glad "Wash" is doing so well. Tell him that "Jim" don't suit me as well as he ("Wash") used to. "Jim" and "Albert" are learning to read quite well. Does Wash have any teacher now Grace has gone.

With much love, Yr Son
C.H.H.

1865

(57)
could get the horse
or some one else to
go in with him. I
would sell it to such a
party provided I could
first sell the Upland
separately but not until
I could do this. I trust
Sprague & Pratt closed
the bargain for the other
land - If they did not
I do not care because
it is just as well to
own that too if we can-
not dispose of the whole.

I wish to let or lease
the former & believe you agree
with me that it is best to
do so - Probably less dam-
age would be done if it
can be let at the haves.
There is a temptation to
make money off from it

161
When it is hired out.

Tell Oscar (if he calls) that
Officers of Colored Regts. I
find are now appointed
by War Dept - after passing
an Examining Board; but
only 2nd Lieutenants are al-
lowed.

I hope you will be where
you can enjoy Religious worship
& other privileges this winter
without exposing your health.

Tell me about the remainder
of your stay at Easton

Pray that I may have great
wisdom & abundant Grace
for my new & responsible
duties - I am, as ever,

Your loving Son
C. H. Howard

P.S. Did you receive two pho-
tographs I ordered sent to you?
C. H. H.

Probably for
Reverend S. L.
April or May
1865

10/15/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: [Mother]

CHH-178

[Beaufort S. C.]

[missing first 4 pages]

[page] (5)

could get Tho J Rose or some one else to go in with him. I would sell it to such a party provided I could first sell the Upland but not until I could do this. I trust Sprague & Pratt closed the bargain for the other land. If they did not I do not care because it is just as well to own that too if we cannot dispose of the whole.

I wish to let or lease the farm & believe you agree with me that it is best to do so. Probably less damage would be done if it can be let at the halves.

There is a temptation to make money off from it when it is hired out.

Tell Oscar (if he calls) that Officers of Colored Regts I find are now appointed by War Dept - after passing an Examining Board; but only 2nd Lieutenants are allowed.

I hope you will be where you can enjoy Religious worship & other privileges this winter without exposing your health.

Tell me about the remainder of your stay at Easton. Pray that I may have great wisdom & abundant Grace for my new & responsible duties. I am, as ever,

Your loving son
C. H. Howard

P.S. Did you receive two photographs I ordered sent to you? C. H. H.

[written in a different hand:]

Probably from Beaufort, S.C., April or May.

[Note: This letter was probably written in the fall of 1865, for three reasons. First, the references to selling or renting their land and Sprague and Pratt is being discussed in the fall. Second, the reference to the upcoming winter would place it also in the fall. Third, the request for more information on his mother's trip to Easton corresponds well with the letter written 10/23/1865, in which he thanks his mother for the first letter since she returned from Easton. Thus I assume the date is the week before, or 10/15/1865. Charles' request for prayer for his new responsibilities is a reference to his becoming the commanding officer of the 124th U.S. Colored Troop Regiment, which occurred in the spring of 1865.]

P.S. No. 3. Shop. You will write me often this Summer, dear Mother.

teach them how to stand erect
and call no man master and
at the same time how to obey
wholesome rules and laws, and
regulate all their habits. - Most
of them have learned how to keep
their persons, & clothes, neat and
clean and present quite a
manly appearance as they come
out just before sun-set for dress-
parade and evening prayer.

It is almost time for my
afternoon drill - "battalion drill" from
3 till 5 P.M. We have a good breeze
today from the Ocean - But yesterday
there was no air blowing - the sun was
hot and though I was mounted and
therefore was somewhat above the dust
and heated ground yet the heat was
rather oppressive - It is rare that we
have no afternoon breeze.

I think "Wash" will not labor
in vain in getting in early potatoes &c.
for this will undoubtedly be at home
to enjoy them. I have had no potatoes
yet but have had some green peas
expect to have potatoes in a few days.
His work from Washington or rather

P.S. I believe I have not enjoyed so good health as now for 8 or 10 years
or perhaps never!
My kind thanks
Father be thanked for
this and all his
good things, blessings!
W.H.H.

Hd. qrs. "Camp Stanton"
Beaufort S. C.
May 23 1865

My dear Mother

Imagine my satisfac-
tion last Sabbath evening at the
receipt of nine (9) good fat
letters. One from yourself, one
from Rowland - One from Bronger
one from Mr. Fuller of Hallowell
3 from other
+ the rest more indifferent

Yours was as late as May 19th inst.
I had gone down to "the Grove"
a plantation below just before
sun-set to attend a Sabbath School
for Colored Children - They are the
ones whom this interested so
much. I wrote some message to
Little Grace about them but never
got an answer. It is Miss Bo-
tume's school assisted by a
niece of hers Miss Fannie Langford
& by some gentlemen usually

from Beaufort. It is a delightful
grove of Live Oaks draped with
the long moss - peculiar to this
section of our Country, or rather
to this latitude. I stayed
at Tea - taking pleasant strolls
along the river bank under the
shade of the oaks, magnolias, & other
beautiful trees. The Oleanders
are in full bloom - I remarked
to the company that it would
do another good to see those
luxuriant Oleanders. They are
as large as the group of lilacs
in our front garden at home
and, if anything, taller - more
tree-like even than the lilacs.
The Pomegranates are now in
bloom - very plenty in this region -
such a beautiful scarlet. They are
not fragrant like the Oleanders, how-
ever. - The feast of letters
when I returned was a magnif-

-icent fete to the pleasant eve-
ning at "the Grove" - I think I
sent you a photograph of a
tree or the Chapel of this plan-
tation - It is sometimes called
the "Old Fort" from an old Spanish
ruin of a shell fort still visible
there.

Your letter gave me a picture
of home very grateful to see
you - If I reflected too much
upon such, however, it would
I fear make me discontented
here - I am very glad "Wash"
is so good & efficient. Tell
him I say he could not have
a better place - He is doing good
by helping my mother while I am
spending all my time teaching
colored men - I have to teach
them how to be men - teach
them manners, morals, how
to think and talk, read, write

5/23/1865

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother

CHH-177

Hd. qrs. Camp Stanton
Beaufort S.C.

Hd. qrs. "Camp Stanton"
Beaufort S.C.
May 23 1865

My dear Mother

Imagine my satisfaction last Sabbath evening at the receipt of nine (9) good fat letters. One from yourself, one from Rowland. One from Bangor, one from Mr. Fuller of Hallowell, 3 from Otis & the rest more indifferent. Yours was as late as May 7th inst.

I had done down to "the Grove" a plantation below just before Sun-set to attend a Sabbath-School for Colored Children. They are the ones whom Otis interested so much. I wrote some message to little Grace about them but never got an answer. It is Miss Botume's school assisted by a niece of hers Miss Fannie Langdon & by some gentlemen usually from Beaufort. It is a delightful grove of Live Oaks draped with the long moss peculiar to this section of our Country or rather to this latitude. I stayed at Tea - taking pleasant strolls along the river bank under the shade of the oaks, magnolias, & other beautiful trees. The oleanders are in full bloom. I remarked to the company that it would do mother good to see these luxuriant oleanders. They are as large as the group of lilacs in our front garden at home and, if anything, taller - more tree-like even than the lilacs. The Pomegranates are now in bloom, very plenty in this region, such a beautiful scarlet. They are not fragrant like the oleanders however.

The feast of letters when I returned was a magnificent finale to the pleasant evening at "the Grove". I think I sent you a photograph of a tree or the chapel of this plantation. It is sometimes called the "Old Fort" from an old Spanish ruin of a shell fort still visible there.

Your letter gave me a picture of home very grateful I assure you. If I reflected too much upon such, however, it would I fear make me discontented here. I am very glad "Wash" is so good & efficient. Tell him I say he could not have a better place. He is doing good by helping my mother while I am spending all my time teaching colored men. I have to teach them how to be men, teach them manners, morals, how to think and talk, read, write, teach them how to stand erect and call no man master and at the same time how to obey wholesome rules and laws, and regulate all their habits. Most of them have learned how to keep their persons & clothes neat and clean and present quite a manly appearance as they come out just before Sun-set for dress-parade and evening prayer.

It is almost time for my afternoon drill - "battalion drill" from 3 till 5 p.m. We have a good breeze today from the Ocean. But yesterday there was no air stirring - the Sun was hot and though I was mounted and therefore was somewhat above the dust and heated ground yet the heat was rather oppressive. It is rare that we have no afternoon breeze.

I think "Wash" will not labor in vain in getting in early potatoes &c for Otis will undoubtedly be at home to enjoy them. I have had no potatoes yet but have had some green peas & expect to have potatoes in a few days.

Otis wrote from Washington or rather got Maj. Stinson to write for him. I got one letter by his own hand (Otis') from Petersburg. It seems he has been put in charge of the Freedman's bureau. He has not had much experience in such matters but good common sense and the power of attention & application to business which he possesses will soon make him master of the situation.

I wish he would make a tour of inspection to find out the need of the Freedmen & would come down here soon. I trust he will do so eventually. How rejoiced I should be to have him or any of the dear friends I prize most highly come here and see my splendid Regiment. I feel very proud of it but see work for a life-time, in relation to it, still before me - to make these men all good soldiers and the regiment a model one in all military matters and at the same time to prepare these men for good citizens. The moral and religious education must come chiefly from example. How much then I & the officers associated with me need grace from Above and to this end need the prayers of all Christians.

Rev. Mr. Fuller you will have learned cannot come as my Chaplain. I somewhat expect Rev. Mr. Noble, also of my Seminary Class, and lately preaching at Winthrop. He is now at City Point Va. Agent of C.C. I don't know now how you will be able to forward the shirts & sheets. It is not very important for me to have them. I fancied I would try & be a little civilized, after going without those badges of civilization for four (4) years.

With love to my brothers & their precious families. (I hope Dellie is with you).

Your affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

P.S. I believe I have not enjoyed so good health as now for 8 or 10 years or perhaps never! My kind Heavenly Father be thanked for this and all his bounteous blessings! C. H. H.

P.S. No 2. Tell "Wash" that "Jim" is here & thinks he has to work very hard. Albert, Col. Beebe's man, is also an acquaintance of "Wash".

P.S. No. 3. I hope you will write me often this Summer, dear Mother.