

members of the Church of Christ - with Roland waited out - but I forgot  
that the last summer tried to bring the mail & I may get a double portion  
of letters next time -  
your loving son  
C. H. Howard

Ad. grs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S. C.  
June 12<sup>th</sup> 1865

My dear Mother

You are the only person  
to whom I would presume to begin a letter  
upon so huge a sheet. But I am sure  
I can fill it if not interrupted in the  
hour before me till Battalion drill at  
3 P. M. Besides the thunder is grumbling  
in the sky and clouds accumulating so  
we may have a grateful shower instead  
of a hot and tiresome drill. Rain is al-  
ways welcome here. But we manage to  
get the better of the heat usually. I have now  
as a covering of my verandah between my  
two tents - instead of the tent-fly - a frame-  
work of rough poles - with bark on - Covered  
with the long Southern Moss which I have  
described to you in former letters, I think. It  
will grow even when spread out in this  
way as a roof. This gives me one place  
always shady and cool. The <sup>hanging</sup> moss too is  
pretty & picturesque to see. There had some  
other improvements about my quarters - A  
tall flag staff ~~erected~~ in front of my tent  
with a handsome new flag floating in the  
breeze - a terraced mound at its foot  
and the sandy surface in front of my tent  
all covered with grass-grown sods.



As I look in across my "Veranda" and through my rear tent a picture meets my eyes too pleasing not to mention to you - a beautiful bouquet of Oleanders (if they are properly called Oleanders) skillfully arranged with vines Asparagus &c. So as to be doubly attractive. This was a present sent me <sup>this morning</sup> by the ladies from "Old Fort" Plantation two or three miles below. The Oleanders have a fragrance like our grass-pinks - and are not unlike them except that they are as large as a Cinnamon rose, ~~and~~ <sup>They</sup> have a bright pink color. Their immense shrubbery I believe I have described to you. It is said they continue to blossom until Fall. One of these <sup>Oleander</sup> <sup>or bushes</sup> <sup>all in bloom</sup> standing among the green of the magnolias and other <sup>trees and</sup> shrubbery, is one of the most pleasing of rich nature's luxuriant offerings in this region.

Another new feature of my rear tent is the flower of the Spanish Dagger, <sup>(a beautiful, also, p.)</sup> which is also upon a grand scale. It looks like a lot of Pond lilies strung together so as to make a compact bunch larger than a water-pail. There are above 500 of these flowers <sup>upon one stalk</sup> for I had my boy "Jim" Count them <sup>(519)</sup> this morning. This huge bouquet of nature's own making, grows upon the top of the flag-like shrub named "Spanish Dagger" from the dagger-like sharpness of the



leaf - It looks a little like a young palmetto.

Since I wrote you Capt. Cole has been here - from Otis - He only spent one night but it was very refreshing to me to see some one to tell me all about one who is almost a part of myself (so closely have I been associated with him for the past 4 years). Besides he could tell me about the Army and my many friends there and in fact before he came there was a great dearth of information of every kind from the North. I am very glad Siegie is once again with Otis & I wonder when he will have the chance there. I am not at all weaned from my Northern home & friends. Today have been thinking & rethinking & almost a wishing which you know is not proper for a philosopher and a sailor who has got well out upon the sea of life. But my heart must be a little too domestic for this world or the manner I have lately drifted out into the world I think. However things adapt themselves to each other & I shall get used to the status which Providence assigns me. - I saw a telegram from Otis today to Gen. Saxton - in answer to one Gen. S. had sent asking if he (Gen. S.) should come to Washington. Gen. Saxton will go next steamer I think. If I could be assured that my Regiment would remain in charge of Gen. Saxton I



should be well satisfied - But there is no cer-  
tainty of this. And if turned over to Gen.  
Gillmore we will probably be sent to Savannah  
or Charleston or elsewhere. I am too old a  
soldier to murmur at any order that may  
come but beforehand I can hope that we  
may remain here where we have become wonted  
and where the officers above me are con-  
spired - Besides here I have charge of two  
Regiments & my rank would hardly entitle me  
to this elsewhere. Capt. Cole brought me  
the Brevet appointment of Colonel of Volun-  
teers from the President - for "gallant and  
meritorious services" as it reads - So I am  
Colonel exclusive of my Regiment. I am  
of course pleased at this honor although  
it is profitless in all except such a gratifi-  
cation - It was given before my Commission in  
this Regt. although I did not know of it till  
now. I got letter from Willie saying he was  
going directly to Indiana - How seldom I  
hear from you. But your letter of May 9<sup>th</sup>  
was received & did me much good - Does  
Wash continue to drive you to Church? Give  
him my kind remembrances - The drum  
sounds for drill & it will not rain - the sprinkling  
has been cleared - but the burning sun is covered  
by a cloud & it will only be a pleasure to drill.  
There is a good breeze - Pray that Providence may guide  
me in all things & make <sup>me</sup> an active & efficient



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6/12/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-179

Hd. Qrs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S. C.

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Hd. Qrs. Camp Stanton  
Beaufort S. C.  
Jun 12th 1865

My dear Mother

You are the only person to whom I would presume to begin a letter upon so huge a sheet. But I am sure I can fill it if not interrupted in the hour before me till Battalion drill at 3 P.M. Besides the thunder is grumbling in the sky and clouds accumulating so we may have a grateful shower instead of a hot and tiresome drill. Rain is always welcome here. But we manage to get the better of the heat usually. I have now as a covering of my verandah between my two tents, instead of the tent-fly, a framework of rough poles, with bark on, covered with the long Southern moss which I have described to you in former letters I think. It will grow even when spread out in this way as a roof. This gives me one place always shady and cool. The hanging moss too is pretty & picturesque to see.

I have had some other improvements about my quarters. A tall flagstaff erected in front of my tent with a handsome new flag floating in the breeze, a terraced mound at its foot and the sandy surface in front of my tent all covered with grass-grown sods.

As I look in across my "Verandah" and through my rear tent a picture meets my eyes too pleasing not to mention to you - a beautiful bouquet of Oleanders (if they are properly called Oleanders) skillfully arranged with vines asparagus &c. so as to be doubly attractive. This was a present sent me this morning by the ladies from "Old Fort" Plantation two or three miles below. The Oleanders have a fragrance like our grass-pinks and are not unlike them except that they are as large as a Cinnamon rose. They have a bright pink color. Their immense shrubbery I believe I have described to you. It is said they continue to blossom until Fall. One of those Oleander trees or bushes standing all in bloom among the green of the magnolias and other trees and shrubbery, is one of the most pleasing of rich nature's luxuriant offerings in this region.

Another new feature of my rear tent is the flower of the "Spanish Dagger" (a present also) which is also upon a grand scale. It looks like a lot of Pond lilies strung together so as to make a compact bunch larger than a water-pail. There are above 500 of these flowers upon one stalk for I had my boy "Jim" count them this morning (519). This huge bouquet of nature's own making, grows upon the top of the flag-like shrub named "Spanish Dagger" from the dagger-like sharpness of the leaf. It looks a little like a young palmetto.

Since I wrote you Capt. Cole has been here from Otis. He only spent one night but it was very refreshing to me to see some one to tell me all about one who is almost a part of myself so closely have I been associated with him for the past 4 years. Besides he could tell me about the Army and my many friends there and in fact before he came there was a great dearth here of information of every kind from the North.

I am very glad Lizzie is once again with Otis & I wonder when he will have the Children there. I am not at all weaned from my Northern home & friends. Today have been thinking & a thinking & almost a wishing which you know is not proper for a philosopher and a sailor who has got well out upon the sea of life. But my heart must be a little too domestic for this world or the manner I have lately drifted out into the world I think. However things adapt themselves to each other & I shall get used to the status to which Providence assigns me. I saw a telegram from Otis today to Gen. Saxton, in answer to one Gen. S. had sent asking if he (Gen. S.) should come to Washington. Gen Saxton will go next Steamer I think. If I could be assured that my Regiment would remain in charge of Gen. Saxton I should be well satisfied. But there is no certainty of this. And if turned over to Gen. Gillmore we will probably be sent to Savannah or Charleston or elsewhere. I am too old a soldier to murmur at any order that may come but beforehand I can hope that we may remain here where we have become wanted and where the officers above me are congenial. Besides here I have charge of two Regiments & my rank would hardly entitle me to this elsewhere.

Capt. Cole brought me the Brevet appointment of Colonel of Volunteers from the President for "gallant and meritorious services" as it reads. So I am Colonel exclusive of my Regiment. I am of course pleased at this honor although it is profitless in all except such a gratification. It was given before my Commission in this Regt although I did not know of it till now.

I got letter from Dellie saying he was going directly to Indiana. How seldom I hear from you. But your letter of May 7th was received & did me much good. Does Wash continue to drive you to Church? Give him my kind remembrances.

The drum sounds for drill & it will not rain - the sprinkling has even ceased - but the burning sun is covered by a cloud & it will only be a pleasure to drill. There is a good breeze.

Pray that Providence may guide me in all things & make me an active & efficient member of the Church of Christ. Wish Rowland would write, but I forget that the last Steamer failed to bring the mail & I may get a double portion of letters next time.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

Ad. gr. Post Receipt  
June 26 1845  
11 P.M.

Dear brother,

I have not time to  
write you a page - But I had expected  
to go North in this steamer - Could  
not finish the business of Examining  
Board I was on - Regarding this I  
lost, in my district &c. &c. I  
did not apply for my Leave, have  
been on the Ex. Board all day & all  
evening - am very tired but well - My  
health & strength was never better in  
my life - My love to mother &  
to Rosa if you have opportunity to  
convey so delicate a message!

To bed! to sleep! to dream! perhaps  
of home which I hope to see in  
two weeks - starting from here 8 days  
from tomorrow (Friday) if I can get a leave.  
Your loving brother  
C. W. Howard

P.S. could you wait till I come home?



On Road running East line of land belonging  
to William Sumner G. Sumner 166 rods to  
Brook, thence West by on the line of the  
Coffin Brook (20 mile Brook) 100 rods to land  
owned by Keaney & Co. Brewster to a stake thence  
Southerly by land owned by Salmon Brewster  
to Road leading from Coffin, Mills to Andrus  
Coggins, ~~on~~ thence Easterly by the County  
Road adjacent to bounds before mentioned  
Containing 71.6 acres. 100 rods =

Levin H. Pratt  
Virgil H. Sprague



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6/26/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-180

Hd. qrs. Post Beaufort

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Hd. qrs. Post Beaufort  
June 26 1865

Dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I have not time to write even a page. But I had expected to go North on this Steamer. Could not finish the business of Examining Board I was on - organization of Courts in my district &c. &c & so did not apply for my Leave. Have been on the Ex. Board all day & all evening - am very tired but well. My health & strength was never better in my life. My love to mother & to Rosa if you have opportunity to convey so delicate a message!

To bed! To sleep! To dream! Perhaps of home which I hope to see in two weeks, starting from here 8 days from tomorrow (Friday) if I can get a Leave.

Your loving brother  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Can't you wait till I come home?

[The second page is written in another hand and may not belong to this letter]

On Road Northerly on line of land belonging to William Lerner G. Lerner 160 rods to Brook, thence Westerly on the line of the Coffin Brook (20 mile Brook) 100 Rods to land owned by Henry M Brewster to a Stake. Thence Southerly by land owned by Salmon Brewster to County Road leading from Coffins Mills to Androscoggin, thence Easterly by the County Road aforesaid to bounds before mentioned containing 71 Acres, 100 Rods.

Cyrus M. Pratt  
Virgil H. Sprague



of going North with Gen.  
 Saxton to meeting Rostland  
 & Otis of Gettysburg but  
 H. Col. Beebe was about  
 so I decided not to  
 go. Now I do not know  
 that I can go this summer  
 even though I hope to  
 go the last of this month  
 or the first of August.  
 Gen. Saxton talked of  
 appointing me Asst. Com.  
 Freedmen but I do not  
 know precisely what place  
 he was going to offer me.  
 We are shooting it 105°  
 in the shade - It is burning  
 in the sun I assure you.  
 I have been sitting upon  
 an Excruciating Board  
 at Hilton Head during  
 last week where it seems

J. J.  
 Saxton H. is  
 well but has  
 lost partially his  
 hearing - effects of  
 his summer attack.

S. C.  
 Hd. qrs. Port of Beaufort  
 July 9 1865

My Dear Mother

It is Sunday  
 about 2 P.M. I have just  
 finished dinner - It is very  
 warm and I feel rather  
 dull for this reason. The  
 cause I did not sleep  
 well last night. It was  
 too warm & the breeze  
 dying out when the tide  
 went out, the mosquitoes  
 came in in swarms.

I have not written  
 you since I was assigned  
 to the Command of  
 this Port. I am now  
 in a house - a fine  
 large mansion with broad  
 piazza & upper balcony.  
 My cares are great &



duties now much more arduous though they will not be so much so by & by when I get everything in order to my mind.

I now have three full Regiments and two batteries under my command - A good sized brigade. Besides the two I had viz. 128<sup>th</sup> & 104<sup>th</sup> - I have now the 26<sup>th</sup> U.S. C. Inf. - 3<sup>d</sup> Rhode-Island Artillery & 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Colored Artillery.

All the vegetation of the town, together with this & neighboring islands and a portion of the main land of South Carolina as far as the Combahee River goes to my lot.

I did not care to leave my Regiment & the

ammunition I had there ("Camp Horton") Everything was running very smoothly & with much greater ease to myself than at first. I had given up the tiresome battalion drill in the hot sun in the afternoon & substituted a school for each company taught by a company officer. Had awnings built of poles and the celebrated long moss which we gather from the live oak trees. These afford school rooms i.e. shelter from the sun & I think the men much rather go to school into this shelter than stay in their company street & tents exposed to the heat.

I thought pretty through,



even warmer than here as  
there they have no trees.

I was appointed in place  
of Gen. Potter (Brig. Maj. Gen.)  
who has gone North. We  
are examining all the offi-  
cers of the District. I was  
not sorry to be upon the  
Board as it gives me  
opportunity to get familiar  
with these matters, in case I  
may have to be examiners.

It reduces the likelihood, also,  
of such an ordeal for myself.

It is examining with a view  
to giving a list to the War  
Department from which  
Regular Officers may be selected  
in case the Army is enlarged.

My health continues  
very good - I only wish  
I could have some more  
of my friends with me.



*R.S. Spinlow to Wash. - Tell him "Jim" likes living in house as I am*  
I have control now of  
plenty of fine horses, carriages  
&c. &c. I think I could  
make any of my friends  
quite comfortable here for a  
while at least.

*R.S. Spinlow to Wash. - Tell him "Jim" likes living in house as I am*  
My Adj. Genl. or  
Post Adj. is Capt. Cox-  
ton brother of Gen. S. - I  
selected him from my  
Regiment - not only be-  
cause he was <sup>as</sup> well qual-  
ified as any but also  
because his health was  
not very good & I thought  
a change would do him  
good. - I have unfortunately  
had no time to go to Church  
today though there was preaching  
at two places - one place chiefly  
to the negroes - I hope you are  
well - Dillie wrote me from  
Rich<sup>mond</sup> - *Yours loving son*  
C. H. Howard



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7/9/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-181

Hd. qrs. Post  
Beaufort S.C.

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Hd. qrs. Post of Beaufort S.C.  
July 9 1865

My dear Mother

It is Sunday about 2 P.M. I have just finished dinner. It is very warm and I feel rather dull for this reason & because I did not sleep well last night. It was too warm & the breeze dying out when the tide went out, the mosquitoes came in in swarms.

I have not written you since I was assigned to the Command of this Post. I am now in a house - a fine large mansion with broad piazza & upper balcony. My cares are great & duties now much more arduous though they will not be so much so by & by when I get everything in order to my mind.

I now have three full Regiments and two batteries under my command. A good sized brigade. Besides the two I had viz. 128th & 104th I have now the 26th U. S. C. Infy., 3d Rhode Island Artillery & 2nd U.S. Colored Artillery.

All the regulation of the town, together with this & neighboring islands and a portion of the main land of South Carolina as far as the Combahee River falls to my lot.

I did not care to leave my Regiment & the command I had there ("Camp Stanton"). Everything was running very smoothly & with much greater ease to myself than at first. I had given up the tiresome battalion drill in the hot sun in the afternoon & substituted a school for each company taught by a Company Officer. Had awnings built of poles and the celebrated long moss which we gather from the live oak trees. These afford school rooms, i.e. shelter from the Sun & I think the men much rather go to school into this shelter than stay in their company streets & tents exposed to the heat.

I thought pretty strongly of going North with Gen. Saxton & so meeting Rowland & Otis at Gettysburg but Lt. Col. Beebe was absent & so I decided not to go. Now I do not know that I can go this Summer though I hope to go the last of this month or the first of August.

Gen. Saxton talked of appointing me Asst. Com'r Freedmen but I do not know precisely what place he was going to offer me.

We are having it 105° in the shade. It is burning in the sun I assure you & I have been sitting upon an Examining Board at Hilton Head during last week where it seems even warmer than here as there they have no trees.

I was appointed in place of Gen. Potter (Bvt. Maj. Gen.) who has gone North. We are examining all the officers of the District. I was not sorry to be upon the Board as it gives me opportunity to get familiar with those matters in case I may have to be examined. It reduces the likelihood, also, of such an ordeal for myself.

It is examining with a view to giving a list to the War Department from which Regular Officers may be selected in case the Army is enlarged.

My health continues very good. I only wish I could have some more of my friends with me. I have control now of plenty of fine horses, carriages &c. &c. & think I could make any of my friends quite contented here for a while at least.

My Adj. Gen. or Post Adj. is Capt. Saxton, brother of Gen. S. I selected him from my Regiment, not only because he was as well qualified as any but also because his health was not very good & I thought a change would do him good.

I have unfortunately had no time to go to Church today, though there was preaching at two places - one



place chiefly to the negroes.

I hope you are well. Dellie wrote once from Rich'nd.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Give love to Wash. Tell him "Jim" likes living in house as I am now better than in a tent. Tell him I have two new horses, both very handsome - one bay, the other black.

P.S. Dexter H. [Howard] is well but has lost partially his hearing - effects of his wound I think.



Adyrs. Port of Beaufort  
Tuesday July 11 1865

Dear Mother:

I was delighted last  
Evening to get your letter of  
July 3<sup>d</sup> - The steamer had  
arrived Saturday but your  
letter got delayed probably  
at Hilton Head.

I am sorry I have not  
always mentioned Dexter  
Howard. He is now en-  
joying good health and in  
command of his Company.  
I am not much at the  
Regt. but see some of the  
officers every day & generally  
visit it once every day.  
There is little doubt that  
it will remain permanently  
at this Port now - and  
there is not a healthier or  
pleasanter place in all



the truth I suppose - I  
shall write to Ella. My  
time is much occupied.  
I have about 20 letters  
behind hand to answer.  
I hope still to go North  
the last of this month or  
the 1<sup>st</sup> of Aug. Lt. Col.  
Beebe wrote me from  
Belfast where he met  
with a "Cordial Reception" from  
his lady - love & her parents.  
I go to Hilton Head in the  
steamer (15 miles) this morn-  
ing at 8 - my Breakfast  
is ready - It is after 4  
o'clock - I will try to heed  
your good counsel not to  
be absorbed in the vanities  
of this world - Your loving son  
C. H. Howard



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7/11/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-182

Hd. qrs. Post of  
Beaufort

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Hd. qrs. Post of Beaufort  
Tuesday July 11 1865

Dear Mother:

I was delighted last evening to get your letter of July 3d. The Steamer had arrived Saturday but your letter got delayed probably at Hilton Head.

I am sorry I have not always mentioned Dexter Howard. He is now enjoying good health and in command of his Company. I am not much at the Regt. but see some of the officers every day & generally visit it once every day. There is little doubt that it will remain permanently at this Post now, and there is not a healthier or pleasanter place in all the South I suppose.

I shall write to Ella. My time is much occupied. I have about 20 letters behind hand to answer. I hope still to go North the last of this month or the 1st of Aug. Lt. Col. Beebe wrote me from Belfort where he met with a "cordial reception" from his lady-love & her parents. I go to Hilton Head on the Steamboat (15 miles) this morning at 8. My Breakfast is ready. It is after 7 o'clock. I will try to heed your good counsel not to be absorbed in the vanities of this world.

Your loving Son  
C. H. Howard



thrown over them as I was to go away & never  
probably have my home here any more. Some  
acquaintances & friends who had been very dear  
I should never again meet in these families  
and interesting places & probably never meet anywhere  
in this world. The town was <sup>pictureque</sup> <sup>the head of the Bay</sup> <sup>pre-</sup>  
sented a charming picture <sup>with its white</sup>  
houses, Church spires, masts of vessels, & green trees.

It always presents its best face to one approaching  
from below on the water. - I immediately saw  
him. Later I found he was off for Charleston that  
night at 10 P.M. The Major (Laxton) the General's  
brother & aide, met me at the boat - All congratulated  
me on my "Star" - By the way I donned the Star in  
Washington "Some" (Otho's servant) sewing on my new shoes  
for me - Mrs. Alvord put on another pair upon my  
old coat & a Tailor put on the buttons which you  
lathered somewhat of doing - so my old coat is good  
as new & I was almost sorry I had bought the new one.

I found Dexter just recovering from sickness & this  
morning wrote his father about him - I saw him  
again tonight & am going to try & get a leave  
for him so that he can leave on the next steamer  
in about a week hence. I go to Charleston  
in a few days. Found my rooms newly painted - My  
Cous Thome, Jim & Aunt Sallie, Capt Rundell my  
Quater Master - all well & seemingly glad to welcome  
me back with such comforts, luxuries & greetings as such  
could offer - It is getting late & I will say Good night & God bless you.

A letter from Belle reached me last night - just before coming on the steamer  
I was with me & she seems to think I have forgotten to write her about to have  
said something about  
her that I did not  
care about that. We  
prepared to see it to  
good paymasters &  
give them all the  
money they desired. We  
go to Columbia the 9th  
of October - But are  
you not home, how  
soon get home - how  
is it? - Mark's wife  
has gone to Lynchburg  
I will see her there  
I should like to see  
a, we don't be well -  
With me hope  
Lettie is well &  
Keep up good  
I hope you will  
see little Robert & his  
see your dear  
from Eastern 2. I  
missed family  
worship at "New ones"  
did you not?  
Your affectionate son  
C. H. Howard

I will end by a little converse with you.  
I think I did not write anyone about my good  
fortune in attending Mr. Beecher's Prayer meeting last  
Friday night - I enjoyed much Mr. Beecher's talk -  
the singing - the fervent prayers and practical brief  
remarks of other Christians - Mrs. Alvord went  
with me & then we returned to Jersey City - to  
her home - We had all taken Tea at her mother's  
& sister's (Mrs. Peck's) at 29 Cranberry St. Brook-  
lyn - Mr. Alvord has two little boys - one about  
9, terribly afflicted with Asthma but a very bright  
boy - the other 4 years old and a girl some  
16 or 18 years old - now going to school in N.Y.  
Mr. A. & wife make my stay with them so  
pleasant in every way that I shall delight to  
visit them again - Saturday he & I started about  
9 for N.Y. & as the steamer was to go at 10 A.M.  
we went directly to the Dock & I did not undertake



to go up to the Hotel even but I met Capt. Ketch-  
um (not the Steamer (with whom I stayed when I was  
before in N.Y. you remember) & several other friends -  
some acquaintances, clerks & others, going South but  
no one in whom I was greatly interested. I left  
some arrangements for Mrs. Alford to do & send the results  
to me by Capt. K. who is to come by the next  
trip of the Empire City. I found this Steamer rather  
worn with hard use during the War but being the  
Ranking Officer I was given as good a room as  
was to be found & the pleasure for being on deck.

Gen. Seymour an old Army officer who married  
my friend John Weir's sister was a passenger but  
he had been mustered out as a General & returned  
to his old rank in the Regular Army - a Captain  
& was going to join his Company at Hilton Head.

He was an agreeable companion - introducing him-  
self soon after we started. His wife also was a  
passenger but so sick that I did not have the  
pleasure of her company except when we first  
started & just before we reached Hilton Head.  
He is a lovely lady & says she has often heard <sup>her brother</sup> John  
speak of me. Gen. S. told me that John is now painting  
a picture for which he is to have six thousand  
dollars - This will be a pretty good year's salary. I

At Hilton Head, N.C. - The weather was 86° in shade yesterday but there is always a good sea breeze.  
My wife & I visited the old fort and the old lighthouse. The fort is a very interesting place & the lighthouse is a very fine one.

saw the Painting last Winter when I was in his  
Studio but it was then but just begun.  
Well, our passage was the pleasantest the last  
three days bright & breezy - I wrote some <sup>what</sup> on Monday  
Read on Sunday until evening - Packed a good deal  
with Gen. Seymour who has travelled in Europe &  
is a man of superior culture. He was in the  
Mexican War - Of course feels rather sore that he  
is mustered out while many other younger officers  
who are not in the Regular Army, are retained. He  
intends to stick by until he gets to be Major & then  
be "retired" - which he can be easily as he has been  
a good many years in service and his health is  
now much impaired - being troubled with Bronchitis.  
An officer on the "retired list" has considerably more  
than half pay.

I came up Beaufort River towards sunset - a  
delightful sail - But I had heard on landing at  
Hilton Head of much sickness among my officers,  
that Mr. Col. B. had gone home sick - that Gen. Lytle  
was just off for Charleston - so I was rather  
sorrowful & reflective - almost <sup>if not quite</sup> regretful as I came  
up the beautiful familiar river. I saw the places  
where I had enjoyed the Spring & Summer months  
so much & which now seemed to have a shade



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9/27/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-183

Beaufort S. C.

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Beaufort S. C.  
Sept 27 1865

My dear Mother

I have written to Rowland, Otis & Dellie today and now it is evening. I will end by a little converse with you. I think I did not write anyone about my good fortune in attending Mr. Beecher's Prayer meeting last Friday night. I enjoyed much Mr. Beecher's talk, the singing, the fervent prayers and practical brief remarks of other Christians. Mrs. Alvord went with me & then we returned to Jersey city, to her house. We had all taken Tea at her mother's & sister's (Mrs. Peck's) at 29 Cranberry St. Brooklyn. Mr Alvord has two little boys - one about 9, terribly afflicted with Asthma but a very bright boy - the other 4 years old and a girl some 16 or 18 years old, now going to school in N. Y.

Mr. A. & wife made my stay with them so pleasant in every way that I shall delight to visit them again. Saturday he & I started about 9 for N. Y. & as the Steamer was to go at 10 A.M. we went directly to the Dock & I did not undertake to go up to the Hotel even but I met Capt. Ketchum at the Steamer (with whom I stayed when I was before in N.Y. you remember) & several other friends - some acquaintances, clerks & others, going South but no one in whom I was greatly interested. I left some errands for Mr. Alvord to do & send the results to me by Capt. K. who is to come by the next trip of the Empire City. I found this Steamer rather warm with hard use during the War but being the ranking officer I was given as good a room as was to be found & the pleasanter for being on deck.

Gen. [Truman] Seymour, an old Army officer who married my friend John Weir's sister [Louisa] was a passenger but he had been mustered out as a General & returned to his old rank in the Regular Army - a Captain & was going to join his Company at Hilton Head. He was an agreeable companion, introducing himself soon after we started. His wife also was a passenger but so sick that I did not have the pleasure of her company except when we first started & just before we reached Hilton Head. She is a lovely lady & says she has often heard her brother John speak of me. Gen. S. told me that John is now painting a picture for which he is to have six thousand dollars. This will be a pretty good year's salary. I saw the Painting last Winter when I was in his studio but it was then but just begun.

Well, our passage was the pleasantest, the last three day's bright & breezy. I wrote somewhat on Monday. Read on Sunday until evening. Talked a good deal with Gen. Seymour who has traveled in Europe & is a man of superior culture. He was in the Mexican War, of course feels rather sore that he is mustered out while many other younger officers & who are not in the regular Army, are retained. He intends to stick by until he gets to be Major & then be "retired", which he can be easily as he has been a good many years in service and his health is now much impaired, being troubled with Bronchitis. An officer on the "retired list" has considerably more than half pay.

I came up Beaufort River towards Sunset - a delightful sail. But I had heard on landing at Hilton Head of much sickness among my officers, that Lt. Col. B. had gone home sick, that Gen. Saxton was just off for Charleston, so I was rather sober & reflective - almost if not quite regretful as I came up the beautiful familiar river. I saw the places where I had enjoyed the Spring & Summer months so much & which now seemed to have a shade thrown over them as I was to go away & never probably have my home here any more. Some acquaintances & friends who had been very dear I would never again meet in these familiar and interesting places & probably never meet anywhere in this world.

The Sun was sinking & Beaufort presented a charming picture crowning picturesquely the head of the Bay with its white houses, church spires, masts of vessels & green trees. It always presents its best face to our approaching from below on the water. I immediately saw Gen. Saxton & found he was off for Charleston that night at 10 P.M.

The Major (Saxton), the General's brother & aide met me at the boat. All congratulated me on my "Star". [Charles was promoted to Brevet Brigadier-General on 15 Aug 1865.] By the way I donned the star in Washington. "Sour" (Otis's servant) sewing on my new stripes for me - Mrs. Alvord put on another pair upon my old coat & a Tailor put on the buttons which you talked somewhat of doing. So my old coat is



good as new & I was almost sorry I had bought the new one.

I found Dexter just recovering from sickness & this morning wrote his father about him. I saw him again tonight & am going to try & get a leave for him so that he can leave on the next Steamer in about a week hence.

I go to Charleston in a few days. Found my rooms newly painted. My cow & horse, "Jim", Aunt Sallie", Capt Rundlett my Quarter Master, all well & seemingly glad to welcome me back with such comforts, luxuries, & greetings as each could offer. It is getting late & I will say Good night & God bless you.

A letter from Dellie reached me last night, probably coming on the same Steamer with me. He seems to think Messrs. Sprague & Pratt ought to have paid something down but I have written him that I did not care about that. We preferred to sell it to good paymasters & give them all the time they desired. He goes to Clinton Iowa the 9th of October.

Write me how you got home, how Joan got along, how "Wash" is &c. &c. Wash's wife has gone to Lynchburg but Otis will try again to find her there as no doubt he will. Write me how your health is and if you keep up good spirits. Have you met your Sabbath School class since your return from Easton? I missed family worship at Mr. Ames' did you not?

Your Affectionate Son  
C. H. Howard

P.S. I told Dellie I would let him have money if he needed taking one of those Sprague & Pratt notes for my pay if he wished me to do so.

P.S. No 2. Thermometer was 86° in shade yesterday but there is always a good Sea breeze. I visited my Regt tonight and spoke to them. They looked very neat & soldierly.

Unions. - Two officers have been  
 lately murdered back here in.  
 S. C. & a fearful state of things  
 seems to exist - Reformed Rebel  
 soldiers lounging round the hotels  
 with nothing to do. I wish I was  
 in command of the Department.  
 Gov. Perry I fear poor what Gen. Lov-  
 ton says is little better than an  
 old Rebel - tho' his address to  
 the Convention sounded much  
 better than South Carolina speeches  
 of 4 years ago - you saw it I  
 suppose - I wonder if the Democ-  
 rat party is willing to sustain his  
 assumption that ours is a white  
man's Govt. - Is this a white  
man's world? God seems to  
 have given a place to the black  
 man in it.

Bruckling up here - seeing my  
 Regt. rather degenerating - severing  
 all the pleasant associations of place  
 & people etc. etc. (How foolishly the heart

is not content who has made him black and at the same time  
 an intelligent moral agent? Must close with love to Ed & A  
 Dadie and sweet  
 little baby etc.  
 provide for affection  
 for. J. M. Howard  
 Sept. 28 to 1865  
 Braintree, Mass.

Braunfort S. C.

Sept. 27 1865

Wednesday

Brother Rowland

I arrived here  
 last night after a pleasant  
 passage from N. Y. in three  
 days - I was glad to find your  
 letter at Howard Hotel Friday  
 morning. I spent Thursday night  
 in Jersey City with Mr. Alvord  
 and sat on Friday night after spend-  
 ing the evening in Brooklyn - tak-  
 ing Tea at his wife's mother's and  
 attending Mr. Beecher's Prayer meeting.

It is early in the morning and  
 I cannot help exclaiming in  
 Mrs. Lee's words "O lovely Beau-  
 fort!" The air seems clearer, the  
 sky bluer, the sunshine brighter,  
 the birds merrier and the whole  
 picture of the bay & its environs,  
 looking from my windows, seems



more pleasing to the eye than  
any place I have visited in  
my absence. The brightness & cheer-  
ful aspect of nature this morning  
& my sweet sleep last night  
has done much to dispel the  
disagreeable feelings of last night.

For every thing in the matter  
of business, military, the Bureau,  
the Mts. of society in S. C. and  
other more particular personal cir-  
cumstances tended to distract  
& make me ~~forget~~ <sup>at Washington</sup> that

I knew Gen. Saxton was to  
move Hdqrs. to Charleston but  
thought I would perhaps get back  
before he left. I found him  
here but all packed up & he  
with his family & Maj. Saxton -  
in fact everything of his household  
this office were on the boat  
and left at 10 in the evening.  
It was a pleasant moonlight

evening. I mounted my horse &  
rode with my Quaker master to  
see Maj. Daniels. Had learned  
before that M. Col. Beebe had gone  
North sick. Maj. D. has been  
sick, his wife, Mrs. Noble-  
Capt (Dexter) Howard in fact  
a great many more of my officers.

Maj. D. informed me of a good  
deal of trouble in the Regt. but  
he is better & will be able to attend  
to it now. Dexter I then went  
to see & found he was improving  
but had been very sick. I wrote to  
Mach Warren this morning.

My Dr. Mr. has had my  
two rooms painted & everything  
put in fine order for my  
comfort here so it is quite a  
disappointment to go to Charleston.  
Yet I would not care to stay  
here alone. It will be rather lonely  
here with Hdqrs. of the Bureau

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9/27/1865

*From:* C. H. Howard

*To:* Rowland B. Howard

CHH-184

Beaufort S. C.

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Beaufort S. C.  
Sept. 27 1865  
Wednesday

Dear brother Rowland [B. Howard]

I arrived here last night after a pleasant passage from N. Y. in three days. I was glad to find your letter at Howard Hotel Friday morning. I spent Thursday night in Jersey City with Mr. Alvord and ditto Friday night after spending the evening in Brooklyn, taking Tea at his wife's mother's and attending Mr. Beecher's Prayer meeting.

It is early in the morning and I cannot help exclaiming in Mrs. Lee's words "O lovely Beaufort"! The air seems clearer, the sky bluer, the Sun-shine brighter, the birds merrier and the whole picture of the bay & its environs, looking from my window, seems more pleasing to the eye than any place I have visited in my absence. The brightness & cheerful aspect of nature this morning & my sweet sleep last night has done much to dispel the disagreeable feelings of last night.

For everything in the matter of business, military, the Bureau, the state of society in S.C. and other more particular personal circumstances tended to disturb and make me sad.

I knew at Washington that Gen. Saxton was to move Hd. Qrs. to Charleston but thought I would perhaps get back before he left. I found him here but all packed up & he with his family & Maj. Saxton, in fact everything of his household & his office were on the boat and left at 10 in the evening.

It was a pleasant moonlight evening. I mounted my horse & rode with my Quarter Master to see Maj. Danielson. Had learned before that Lt. Col. Beebe had gone North sick. Maj. D. has been sick, his wife, Mrs. Noble, Capt (Dexter) Howard, in fact a great many more of my officers. Maj. D. informed me of a good deal of trouble in the Regt. but he is better & will be able to attend to it now. Dexter I then went to see & found he was improving but had been very sick. I wrote to Uncle Warren this morning.

My Qr. Mr. has had my two rooms painted & every thing put in fine order for my comfort here so it is quite a disappointment to go to Charleston. Yet I would not care to stay here alone. It will be rather lonely here with Hd. Qrs. of the bureau removed.

Two officers have been lately murdered back here in S. C. & a fearful state of things seems to exist. Returned Rebel soldiers lounging round the hotels with nothing to do. I wish I was in command of the Department. Gov. Perry I fear from what Gen Saxton says is little better than an old Rebel, tho' his address to the Convention sounded much better than South Carolina speeches of 4 years ago. You saw it I suppose. I wonder if the Democratic Party is willing to sustain his assumption that ours is a White Man's Gov't. Is this a White Man's World? God seems to have given a place to the black man in it.

Breaking up here, seeing my Regt. rather degenerating, severing all the pleasant associations of place & people etc. etc. (How foolishly the heart

[missing page 5]

-cient Creator who has made him black and at the same time an intelligent moral agent? I must close with love to Ella & Dadie and sweet little baby Otis.

From your Affectionate br  
C. H. Howard  
Col. 128th U. S. C. T.  
Brevet Brig. Gen. Vols.