



638 Tremont St.,
Mr. Webb

Boston May 14 1866

Dear Mother

You observe
I have spent the Sunday
in Boston. Had pleasant
calls upon two Classmate
(Professors) Dr. Mitchell
at Brunswick & upon Mr.
Whittelsey. Warm welcome
at Capt. Patten's. Good
trip on the boat. Went
Frank Johnson in the morning
in walking from the For-
ker House to report to Mr.
Walt after Breakfast.
He took me to the Paymen-
tor on my own business
and then to the Magazine
on his - and I saw Glad

24
To visit the latter - The
grass is all very green this
morning and the trees in leaf -
In fact the vegetation here
is as far advanced as it
was at Philadelphia when
you and I came through.

Went to Church with
Frank in A.M. & dined at
Mrs. Werry's. They said they
surprised your call and hoped
it would be repeated. Frank
asked me for one of your
photographs (the Richmond one).
I wonder whether Aunt Mar-
tha could not get us
some of them. In Ev'g I
heard Mr. Webb & enjoyed
all the service much. He
has a beautiful Church
and the singing was ex-
cellent. Sat. P.M. I took
the little girl with me to

Dear "Blind Tom" of
whom Dr. Chickering
told us you remember.
Sat. Ev'g attended the
celebration of a Sacred Concert
by the Handel & Haydn
Society - Magnificent -
One of the singers ^{the Supreme Solo} Miss Tom-
son I also heard yesterday
morning at the Old South.

I am off for New York this
morning but as I failed
to get Dexter's bag have
must stop over a train
and perhaps - yes in all
probability - a night to see
the Pygmies there. Think
I will telegraph to Otis
from N.Y. tonight & get two
or three days' extension.

Hope you will put work

14 / Too hard as there is, down
- get when you so much
to be done.

Tell "Wash" to Repair the
Little floor the first oppor-
tunity - make it all sound
as I may have my fine
mare which was sold to
Mr. Webb back again. If
he goes away as there is
some prospect I am going
to buy her back. You know
she is an elegant animal
and I want Wash to put
one of the stalls in good shape
for her and fix it so the other
horse cannot kick her or
any harm befall her in any way.
If I have her I shall want Wash
to come for her & take her back in
the Bath boat - riding her from
Bath home in two days. If
this occurs and in fact at any

Note as you do not like
your horse you better let
Rowland ^{B.H.} sell him if he get
an opportunity and perhaps
Francis Littlejohn might send
a purchaser if you, let him
know you wish to sell the horse.

The mare is kind and with
a curb bit would be safe
enough for you to drive but
she never must be driven in
a rickety old wagon - I told
Wash about getting ours repaired
and I think it better be done
at once - The harness too needs
some repairs and oiling. If
this family comes home this
summer the mare would be
a great source of comfort and
pleasure to them. He will
need to have a good deal
of grain - though not more
than your parent horse. Re

6/ I hope I can bargain for
you to keep her for the winter -
I am to have her a year -
allowing Mrs. Webb to re-
turn her on his return - so
(you see I am doubly anxious
that she should be kept safe
and sound - I will write
again of this when it is
decided which will be the
cost of the month - For
Wash could not well be
spared to come for her but
three days will be all and I
can't think of a better way.

Dell would like the arrange-
ment too I suppose as he will
be in a state of mind to enjoy
riding - Your loving son
C. H. Howard

5/14/1866

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-192

638 Fremont St.
Mr. Webbs
Boston

638 Fremont St.
Mr. Webbs
Boston May 14, 1866

Dear Mother,

You observe I have spent the Sunday in Boston. Had pleasant calls upon two Classmates, young Professors and Dr. Mitchell at Brunswick & upon Mrs. Whittlesey, warm welcome at Capt Patten's. Good trip on the boat. Met Frank Gilman in the morning in walking from the Parker House to report to Mr. Webb after Breakfast. He took me to the Paymaster on my own business and then to the Navy yard on his. And I was glad to visit the latter. The grass is all very green there now and the trees in leaf. In fact the vegetation here is as far advanced as it was at Philadelphia when you and I came through.

I went to Church with Frank in a.m. & dined at Mr. Emery's. They said they enjoyed your call and hoped it would be repeated. Frank asked me for one of your photographs (the Richmond one.). I wonder whether Aunt Martha could not get us some of those. In Eve'g I heard Mr. Webb & enjoyed all the services much. He has a beautiful Church and the singing was excellent. Sat. P.M. I took the little girl with me to hear "Blind Tom" of whom Dr. Chickering told us you remember. Sat. Eve'g attended the rehearsal of a Sacred Concert by the Handel & Hayden Society - magnificent. One of the singers the soprano solo Miss Henston I also heard yesterday morning at the Old South.

I am off for New York this morning but as I failed to get Dexter's pay here must stop over a train and perhaps - yes in all probability a night - to see the Paymaster there. Think I will telegraph to Otis from N.Y. tonight & get two or three days extension.

Hope you will not work too hard as there is danger when you [have] so much to be done.

Tell "Wash" to repair the Stable floor the first opportunity - make it all sound - as I may have my fine mare which was sold to Mr Webb back again if he goes away as there is some prospect. I am going to buy her back. You know she is an elegant animal and I want Wash to put one of the stalls in good shape for her and fix it so the other horse cannot kick her or any harm befall her in any way. If I have her I shall want Wash to come for her & take her back in the Bath boat riding her from Bath home in two days. If this occurs and in fact at any rate as you do not like your horse you better let Rowland B. H. sell him if he gets an opportunity and perhaps Francis Lothrop might send a purchaser if you would let him know you wish to sell the horse.

The mare is kind and with a curb bit would be safe enough for you to drive but she never must be driven in a rickety old wagon. I told Wash about getting ours repaired and I think it better be done at once. The harness too needs some repairs and oiling. If Otis' family comes home this summer the mare would be a great source of comfort and pleasure to them. She will need to have a good deal of grain - though not more than your present horse. Perhaps I can bargain for you to keep her for the using. I am to have her a year - allowing Mr. Webb to repurchase her on his return - so you see I am doubly anxious that she should be kept safe and sound I will write again of this when it is decided which will be the last of the month. Fear Wash could not well be spared to come for her but three days will be all and I can't think of a better way.

Dell would like the arrangement too I suppose as he will be in a state of mind to enjoy riding.

Your loving Son,
C. H. Howard

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands,
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia,

Washington, June 26 1866.

Dear Mother

It is scorching hot
in W. now - Lizzie is doing well - up
and dressed and sat last evening with
Otis & the children on the upper balcony,
The little boy ^{but still} thirsty, without a name.

The rest pretty well - though sometimes
the hot weather makes Chancy fretful -

Sam & Grace go with their father one morn-
ing & return down the Potomac this
morn - I go with Major Ketchum and
two young ladies, sisters, Bailey former-
ly from Portland, Maine. Rowland
writes that Wash troubles a little some-
times, I am very sorry for this and
feel sure Wash does not mean to
do so - I want him to be just as
respectful and obedient to you as
I would be and as he used to be to

me - I was in hopes to keep
Wosh with us always and help
him to own a piece of land and
a home of his own one of these
days - Hope you do not work too
hard - Wont you to be fresh and happy
when we all come home - I am de-
sirous of bringing to see you a very per-
ticular lady friend of mine from
the Eastward - if you are well and
everything favours - I enclose a letter
of Addison's which we thought would
interest you and much enjoy -

Your loving Son
C. H. Howard

Eliza /

6/26/1866

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-193

Bureau Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands
Headquarters Ass't
Commissioner, District
Columbia
Washington

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia
Washington,

June 26, 1866

Dear Mother

It is scorching hot in W. now. Lizzie is doing well up and dressed and sat last evening with Otis & the children on the upper balcony. The little boy thrifty but still without a name [John Howard, born June 15, 1866].

The rest pretty well - though sometimes the hot weather makes Chancy fretful. Guy & Grace go with their father on a moon light excursion down the Potomac this eve'g. I go ditto Major Ketchum and two young ladies, sisters, Bailey formerly from Portland, Maine.

Rowland writes that Wash troubles you a little sometimes. I am very sorry for this and feel sure Wash does not mean to do so. I want him to be just as respectful and obedient to you as I would be and as he used to be to me. I was in hopes to keep Wash with us always and help him to own a piece of land and a home of his own one of these days.

Hope you do not work too hard. Want you to be fresh and happy when we all come home. I am desirous of bringing to see you a very particular lady friend of mine from the Eastward - if you are well and everything favors. [This is the first reference to his future wife, Katherine Foster]

I inclose a letter of Addison's which we thought would interest you and Uncle Ensign [Otis].

Your loving Son,
C. H. Howard

P. S. The facts
of that extract
were correctly
given save the
precise - C. W. H.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen & Abandoned Lands,

Head-Quarters Asst Commissioner, D. C.,

WASHINGTON,

Sept 10

1866.

Dear brother

I was glad to
get your two letters - one
so kindly sympathizing in
acct of my disappointment.

I did feel very blue but
recovered from it in one day
and of course regard it as
the index of Providence -

My Regt. goes out Oct.
1st & I go today to S. C. to
see the Officers & men over
again before they separate -
Be gone about two weeks I
suppose - Am querying whether
I ought to stay here in case
I am mustered out (which is
still doubtful) as a Civilian
am^t Com^d at \$2500 per

head of the large millin, about right? A letter
would reach me care of Maj. Gen. R. K. Scott
Charleston T. C. for a week hence - Hope you
will be mother soon & find how she gets
on - whether she is to have John Mamee move
the Springfield &c. &c. - Otis was not to be in
Main before 1st or 15th of October -

Dr. Bayard has returned & proposes to answer
Beeder - saying that after 6.30 p.m. per. with
Beeder - Had good time at reopening of my
Primer School &c. - The house has enlarged &
improved by Otis - Mrs. Ellen may be left soon -
Your affectionate father L. H. Howard

you. Otis proposes for me
to do this - What do you
think? Miss Kitty wrote
me the best of letters on receipt
of news of my disappointment -
Cheerful, Christian. By it she
was higher than before in
my estimation - which, Ellen
will think, was not necessary.

Weather cool - Spent Sat.
night with Maj. Ketchum
at the Bailey's in Montgom-
ery Co. Md. Very Cordial reception
& agreeable half holiday -

Shall miss my Bangor letters.
Perhaps I ought to go to Lewins
this Fall but if I can retain
my Comm^{ee} will stay here unless
there be some marked indication
provided to the contrary. We liked
the Phil^{os} Revolution (Soyal Unions)
Don't you think they will strike the

9/10/1866

From: C. H. Howard

To: Brother [Rowland B.
Howard]

CHH-194

Bureau Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands
Headquarters Ass't
Commissioner, District
Columbia
Washington

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia
Washington,

Sept 10, 1866

Dear brother [Rowland B. Howard]

I was glad to get your two letters - one so kindly sympathizing on acct of my disappointment.

I did not feel very blue but recovered from it in one day and of course regard it as the index of Providence.

My Regt. goes out Oct. 1st & I go today to S.C. to see the officers & men once again before they separate. Be gone about two weeks I suppose. Am querying whether I ought to stay here in case I am mustered out (which is still doubtful) as a Civilian Ass't Comm'r at \$2500 per year. Otis proposes for me to do this. What do you think?

Miss Kitty wrote me the best of letters on rec't of news of my disappointment- cheerful, Christian. By it she [is] now higher than before in my estimation - which, Ella will think, was not necessary.

Weather cool - Spent Sat. night with Maj. Ketchum at the Bailey's in Montgomery Co. Md. Very cordial reception & agreeable half holiday.

Shall miss my Bangor letters. Perhaps I ought to go to Seminary this Fall but if I can retain my Comm'n will stay here unless there be some marked indication of Providence to the contrary.

We liked the Philad'a Resolutions (Loyal Unionists). Don't you think they will strike the heart of the loyal million about right? A letter would reach me care of Maj. Gen. R.K. Scott, Charleston, S.C. for a week hence.

Hope you will see Mother soon & find how she gets on - whether she is to have John Morrill move the sheepborn &c &c. Otis will not be in Maine before 14th or 15th of October.

Dr. Boynton has returned & proposes to answer Beecher. Sorry that Stephen A Tyng D. D. goes with Beecher.

Had good time at reopening of my Mission School yesterday.

The house [has] been enlarged & improved by Otis. Wish you & Ella may see Kitty soon.

Your Affectionate brother
C.H. Howard

P.S. The facts of that extract were correctly given save the praise. C.H.H.

Charlotte N. C.
Sept 14 1866

My dear Mother

Detained here by the
non-connecting of R.R. trains, I've
this morning until 9 this going - I have whiled
away the time until 6 P.M. and have be-
fore the northern wind comes & will now
write you a short letter - Have read & reread
in Ecce Homo (the book Eliza was reading at
our house) this afternoon - Went to bed
this morning, after reading all night from
Raleigh, & slept till nearly eight - Walked
about the town - They boast that no "federals"
visited it till after the surrender - Rather
a pretty place - Large in the street - Some fine
houses and grand old oaks though not
so many of the latter as in Raleigh - Much
quite number of dilapidated and uncanny
houses and people. Newspaper pretty Rebel.
I just mailed a copy to Boston - I come
to Raleigh via Baltimore & Norfolk boat.
St. led. Beebe gave me a warm welcome
& overpersuaded me to stay a day longer
than I had intended. But I enjoyed it
much & really wanted to see more of him
as our Regt is to break up & probably we
will no more be associated in this life.
He promised me to leave off the use
of ardent spirits to which he has been
more or less addicted. I hope to reach
Charleston by 2 P.M. tomorrow - spend about
4 days there & then may go to Augusta - if
if I do will not be back in N. till week

after next - otherwise - the last of next week.
I hope to get my mail at Charleston.
Kitty wrote me a very cheering letter with
much Christian Spirit - of the receipt of the
news of my disappointment about the Com-
mission of Major in the Regular Army. -

I desire to trouble you neither to go to
my book - case and find upon the Top Shelf
(I think) the volume of Schiller in German -
A small bound book with no inscription upon
the back - and send it to Kitty - I will
enclose an envelope addressed, which you
can paste upon the outside after packing the
book neatly with the ends open so that
only newspaper postage may be charged -
Please pay the postage & let me know how
much.

I hope to hear from you at Charleston -
remained from W. Love to Jennie & Maria
& a great kind to yourself from

Yours Affectionate Son
L. H. Howard

9/14/1866

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-195

Charlotte, N.C.

Charlotte, N.C.

Sept 14, 1866

My dear Mother

Detained here by the non-connecting of R. R. trains from 4 o'clock this morning until 9 this eve'g. I have whiled away the time until 6 P.M. an hour before the northern mail closes & will now write you a short letter.

Have read somewhat in Ecce Homo (the book Ella was reading at our house) this afternoon. Went to bed this morning, after reading all night from Raleigh, & slept till nearly eight. Walked about the town. They boast that no "federals" visited it till after the surrender. Rather a filthy place - bags in the streets. Some fine houses and grand old oaks though not so many of the latter as in Raleigh. Much greater number of dilapidated and uncanny houses and people. Newspaper pretty Rebel. I just mailed a copy to Rowland. I came to Raleigh via Baltimore & Norfolk boat.

Lt. Col. Beebe gave me a warm welcome & even persuaded me to stay a day longer than I had intended. But I enjoyed it much & really wanted to see more of him as our Reg't is to break up & probably we will no more be associated in this life. He promised me to leave off the use of ardent Spirits to which he has been more or less addicted.

I hope to reach Charleston by 2 P.M. tomorrow - spend about 4 days there & then may go to Augusta & if I do will not be back in W till week after next, otherwise, the last of next week.

I hope to get my mail at Charleston. Kitty wrote me a very cheering letter with noble Christian Spirit - after receipt of the news of my disappointment about the Commission of Major in the Regular Army.

I desire to trouble you mother to go to my book-case and find upon the top shelf (I think) the poems of Schiller in German - a small bound book with no inscription upon the back - and send it to Kitty. I will inclose an envelope addressed, which you can paste upon the outside after packing the book neatly with the ends open so that only newspaper postage may be charged. Please pay the postage & let me know how much.

I hope to hear from you at Charleston - remailed from W.

Love to Jamie & Gracie [Otis' children] & a great deal to yourself. From

Your Affectionate Son

C. H. Howard

think I heard her call them over or trace.

I had not mentioned it
to her. She wrote, and she
has written asking Ella to
come to Bangor & to her
home during Anniversary.

Tell Ella I think I never
spent a happier week than
I spent there now & as a
pleasanter home - To make
it complete Nina should
be at home but Kitty will
the more desire Ella to
come for company in
Nina's absence. Indeed I
do not mean to say I should
feel that any thing was lack-

your affectionate brother C. H. Howard

[Nov 3 1866]

ing for a pleasant visit
even now. If Ella can make
it convenient to go I shall
be very glad not only that they
might be better acquainted
but that Kitty may be the more
likely to visit Leeds or Farn-
mington. - I have been over
(across the street) to see Mr.
Nixon I began this - He has
been looking much worn - I
wish they could all go North
for a month. Building blocks
not made yet - rather slow
but I think they will be
ready to begin this house within

Get your letter in Ben-
get what I don't want

2 weeks - Tell Ella (you
not supposed to be interested)
that I never had so good
letters as now. They are more
than I know how to derive,
but I trust I am grateful to
the good God that in His
Providence he has blessed me
with such a love - Our
Morning Meetings are thickly attend-
ed but have all been lively
and interesting thus far - The
family got up & moved
with me now -

I have never heard from
them pictures. Hadn't you
better send to Lewiston P.O.
+ then to Douglas - I worried
if I knew the exact orders
you gave - The Convention pic-
tures come and you can have
the one of mother's if you wish.
Tell mother I have one here
which she can have in case you
take that - Mrs. Roseman sent
Kitty two pairs of gloves, but ex-
changed for me 6 1/2 instead of 7 1/2
the Ella - You see I held the
hand in large estimation.

It says we can only visit upon buying our paper
for \$2.10 - Let me know - I will let you know - I

Somebody will need to
help mother a little in
selling the paper - Hadn't
you better ask much Ensign
to do it as he did last
year - I am very sorry of
Burr's course and think
we could hold him to his
agreement. To mention
a matter of comparatively little
account affected thereby - I
was expecting to be home in
Sept. or Oct. for several weeks
and had hoped to have sort
of a reunion with you some-
ily, or mother's + that possi-
bly Kitty would consent to
come over from Bangor this

11/1/1866

From: C. H. Howard

To: [Rowland B. Howard]

CHH-197

[missing first pages]

[1866] [written in a different hand]

Somebody will need to help Mother a little in <tilling> the grass. Hadn't you better ask Uncle Ensign [Otis] to do it as he did last year.

I am very sorry at Orrin's course and think we could hold him to his agreement. To mention a matter of comparatively little account affected thereby - I was expecting to be home in Sept. or Oct. for several weeks and had hoped to have sort of a reunion with your family at Mother's & that probably Kitty would consent to come over from Bangor tho' I had not mentioned it to her. She writes me she has written asking Ella to come to Bangor & to be home during Anniversary.

Tell Ella I think I never spent a happier week than I spent there nor saw a pleasanter home. To make it complete Nina should be at home but Kitty will the more desire Ella to come for Company in Nina's absence. Indeed I do not mean to say I should feel that anything was lacking for a pleasant visit even now. If Ella can make it convenient to go I shall be very glad not only that they might be better acquainted but that Kitty may be the more likely to visit Leeds or Farmington.

I have been over (across the street) to see Otis since I began this. He has been looking much worn. I wish they could all go North for a month. Building blocks not made yet -rather slow but I think they will be ready to begin Otis' house within 2 weeks.

Tell Ella (you're not supposed to be interested) that I never had so good letters as now. They are more than I know how to desire. But I trust I am grateful to the good God that in His Providence he has blessed me with such a love.

Our morning meetings are thinly attended but have all been lively and interesting thus far. The family get up & breakfast with me now.

I have never heard from those pictures. Hadn't you better send to Lewiston P.O. & then to Inglis. I would if I knew the exact orders you gave. The Convention pictures came and you can have the one of Mother's if you wish. Tell Mother I have one here which she can have in case you take that.

Mr. Browne sent Kitty two pairs of gloves he exchanged for size 6 ½ instead of 7 ½ tell Ella. You see I hold the hand in large estimation.

I got your letter in Bangor. Forget whether I answered it

If you see any one who insists upon buying our farm at \$2100 let me know.

Love to Ella and the "chickens" as I think I heard her call them once or twice.

Your affectionate brother,
C. H. Howard

It now - Drellin will write to Row-
land about the R.R. business, & will
try & put things in better shape when
I come on - Do you still think it a
good plan to let Wash take the form
at the halves as I talked of doing.
If so I will arrange it for the com-
ing year when I come on.

O pray morning & night that our
kind and merciful Father in Heaven
will bless you with a cheerful, trust-
ful spirit and make you useful in
his holy Cause - but feel that my
prayers, often, are clogged with cloud
of Faith and other besetting sins. I know
you do not forget to pray for your sons
and will often remember before the throne

Your Affectionate Son

B. H. Howard

P.S. I got back yesterday in time for my
Sunday School -
B. H. H.

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands,
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia,

Washington, Nov. 25 1866.

Dear Mother

I will write a few
lines at the close of my day's work
to tell you we are all well and
that I had a safe journey to Cin-
cinnati - Cleveland, Chicago, Cedar-
Rapids, and back. Spent one day
with Drellie and one night (sleeping at
O.O. Touchfield, - Drellie is prospering in
business & looks well & happy - Rosa
has got quite fleshy & seems to enjoy
life much. We sold our land for
\$16.00⁰⁰ - having paid \$800⁰⁰ for it -
thus gaining \$800⁰⁰ in about 3 months.

Fred. Thickett is doing a flourishing
business in corn, wheat, wool & hogs.

I found Uncle Henry & Aunt Martha
& Fannie well - Lizzie not very well
but hoping to get strong was to visit -

Washington this winter. Her father
thinks it doubtful if she is well
enough. No particular disease but
general debility. They sometimes
think she has "dumb ague".

Aunt is very desirous that you
should spend the winter with her.
Says she will be all alone - I said
a great deal about it or also did
Uncle Henry. They think you
might come on with me as you
purpose and go out to Richmond
from Philadelphia or from Pittsburgh
alone or there is no change of cars
from the latter place. We are counting
on your being here but if you should
wish to visit Aunt Martha too
I could go to Pittsburgh with you or
so all the way out if desirable. Uncle
Henry said more than I can know
him to about your coming and I
promised to tell you their wishes.
They say three months at least.
I hope to come on for you

the latter part of December. Kitty
F. is to be in Boston at that time
I believe - I had two letters from her
at Chicopee & found one here - all
of which were as usual very gratify-
ing though perhaps I should not be
so willing to show them to my mother
as I was ^{then} last spring. Not that they
contain anything I would not wish my
mother to know but because young
ladies in such a case write for one
person only to see.

I find business had accumulated
and of course I am tired tonight but
am perfectly well. One word in the
some room where you used to find
me when I was acting adjutant general.
The South Western corner room - Mr.
Marble & Capt. Clark with me.

Itis seems very well. I got no
contributions for our Church West but
prepared the way for some. Breese &
I talked over the R. R. business, the
farm & all but I will not write about

11/25/1866

From: C. H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-196

Bureau Refugees,
Freedmen and
Abandoned Lands
Headquarters Ass't
Commissioner, District
Columbia
Washington

[Letterhead]

Bureau Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands
Headquarters Ass't Commissioner, District Columbia
Washington,

Nov 25, 1866

Dear Mother

I will write a few lines at the close of my day's work to tell you we are all well and that I had a safe journey to Cincinnati, Cleveland, Chicago, Cedar Rapids and back. Spent one day with Dellie and one night (sleeping at O. O. Stanchfields). Dellie is prospering in business & looks well & happy. Rosa has got quite fleshy & seems to enjoy life much. We sold our land for \$1600.00 having paid \$800.00 for it - thus gaining \$800 in about 3 months.

Fred. Strickland is doing a flourishing business in corn, wheat, wool & hogs. I found Uncle Henry & Aunt Martha & Annie well - Lizzie not very well but hoping to get strong so as to visit Washington this winter. Her father thinks it doubtful if she is well enough. No particular disease but general debility. They sometimes think she has "dumb ague".

Aunt is very desirous that you should spend the Winter with her. Says she will be all alone. Said a great deal about it as also did Uncle Henry. They think you might come on with me as you <prefer> and go out to Richmond from Philadelphia or from Pittsburgh alone as there is no change of cars from the latter place. We are counting on your being here but if you should wish to visit Aunt Martha too I could go to Pittsburgh with you or go all the way out if desirable. Uncle Henry said more than I ever knew him to about your coming and I promised to tell you their wishes. They say three months at least.

I hope to come on for you the latter part of December. Kitty F. is to be in Boston at that time I believe. I had two letters from her at Chicago & found one here - all of which were as usual very gratifying though perhaps I should not be as willing to show them to my mother as I was those of last Spring. Not that they contain anything I would not wish my mother to know but because young ladies in such a case write for one person only to see.

I find business had accumulated and of course I am tired tonight but am perfectly well. Am now in the same room where you used to find me when I was acting adjutant General, the South Western Corner room - Mr. Marble & Capt. Clark with me.

Otis seems very well. I got no contributions for our Church West but prepared the way for some.

Dellie & I talked over the R.R. business, the farms & all but I will not write about it now. Dellie will write to Rowland about the R.R. business & I will try & put things in better shape when I come on. Do you still think it a good plan to let Wash take the farm at the halves as I talked of doing. If so I will arrange it for the coming year when I come on.

I pray morning & night that our kind and merciful Father in Heaven will bless you with a cheerful, trustful spirit and make you useful in his holy Cause - but feel that my prayers, often, are clogged with want of Faith and other besetting sins. I know you do not forget to pray for your sons and will often remember before the throne.

Your Affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

P.S. I got back yesterday in time for my Sunday School. C.H.H.